N
482

F.O.
371

CLOSED
UNTIL
1983

98517

SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1827/17

FROM Mr Furlonge, Amman, to Mr. Ross.

No. 18205/21

Dated 5th } May.

Received in Registry— 14th }

Economic refugees on the West Bank of Jordan.

Encloses a copy of a report, on economic conditions and possibilities, by Mr. Eyre.

REFERENCES

EE1827/12.

98517

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8) Col. Russell Edmunds, Tay 23 May.

(MINUTES)

A copy of this letter & 7 enclosures should go to Col Russell Edmunds (Tay)

M. Hughes

M E S (again c.a.)

Pl copy first recombinit.

18/5

19.V

B.V. Sept 1st

20/8

Now see letter to Amman on 121.

CW 5/9

(Action completed) 8/9

(Index) 17/10

37799

18205/21

British Legation,
Amman.

CONFIDENTIAL

5th May 1952.

EE 1827/17

Dear Archie.

I enclose an advance copy of an excellent report on economic conditions and possibilities on the West Bank which Eyre, the Agricultural advisor to the British Middle East Office, is sending to Rapp and a covering note by Crawford commenting on it.

2. You will see that Eyre generally confirms the conclusions of Walmesley's report enclosed in Jerusalem despatch No. 9 of 9th February. There can be little doubt that the conditions of the economic refugees represents the most immediate economic problem in Jordan today, and that it is in our interests to make every attempt to urge the Jordan Government to tackle it and to help them to do so. As I have already reported in other connections, it is their failure hitherto to face up to this problem that is the main cause of the present lack of harmony in the Cabinet and of criticism of the Government outside it.

3. Moreover all reports agree that on the West Bank, despite all that has happened, there is still a substantial body of opinion which remains well-disposed towards ourselves and looks to us for help in their difficulties. I feel therefore, that we should be justified in devoting as much of our Loan as we profitably can to the West Bank. We shall of course do what we can to encourage Point IV and UNRWA to do the same.

4. I share Crawford's inability to understand why there should be resistence on the part of Jordan Ministers and officials, even if not from the West Bank, to this being done. If necessary I will take this point up with the Prime Minister. But I agree with Crawford that we must try to refrain from getting embroiled in a controversy on this until the Development Board, which is still a tender plant, has grown some roots.

5. I am sending copies of this letter to Rapp at Fayid, Development Diwision of B.M.E.O. at Beirut and Sir Henry Knight.

Yours ever,
Geoffrey Furlonge

(G.W.Furlonge)

A.D.M. Ross Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
13 MAY 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
15/5

Confidential

The "Frontier" Villages of Arab Palestine

J.C. Eyre, Agricultural Adviser,

British Middle East Office.

Itinerary of Tour:

2nd April	- Beirut to Amman
2-10th April	- Amman
10th-12th April	- Nablus
12-16th April	- Ramallah
17-25th April	- Jerusalem
26th April	- Return to Amman

2. Purpose of Tour

This tour was made to find out what immediate and practical action can be taken to relieve the present conditions of semi-starvation and unemployment in the frontier villages of Arab Palestine om the present Israel - Jordan frontier, and to suggest measures which would increase agricultural production in these areas.

3. Towns and Villages visited

It was not possible, nor was it necessary to investigate conditions in all the frontier villages. The following sample villages and towns were visited:- Qualqilia, Nablus, Beit Surik, Beit Iksa, Biddu, El Qubeiba, Qatanna, Bethlehem, Beit Safafa, Battir, Wadi Fukin, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Beit Nuba, Imwas, Yalu, Saffa, Beit Sira, Hebron, Dharhariya, El Burj.

4. Conditions in the Frontier Villages

H.M. Consul at Jerusalem, Mr. A.R. Walmsley, has written a report on economic conditions in Arab Palestine and, in general, my investigations confirm his opinions.

In almost all the frontier villages I visited the people are living on the borderline of starvation. The men were lethargic and many did not look fit for hard labour and the children were listless and appeared to me to be very undernourished. I saw large numbers of peasants out in the fields collecting wild plants to use as food, especially a wild vetch, the season for which will soon be over. Large quantities of movable property such as furniture and beds, and in one village, even some of the doors and windows from the houses have been sold to obtain cash to buy food.

Some of the lands were ploughed too late and in some villages lands were not ploughed and planted at all because ploughing animals were sold last year because of the need to buy food, and of the severe drought and, where lands have been lost to Israel, of the restricted areas for grazing animals.

The efforts which the people are making to help themselves are most impressive. New terracing

and land reclamation work is to be seen in all areas. In the Nablus district many new wells have been sunk by hand labour, even down to depths of 200 feet; engines, pumps and cement are now required but available cash resources and saleable goods are exhausted. In parts of Bethlehem sub-district I saw small pockets of soil being made from stony, unprofitable hillsides which have been classified as uncultivable. At El Burj in Hebron district, bare steep hillsides have been terraced and planted with vines and olives.

The shortage of grazing land and animal fodder is being relieved everywhere by hand collection of wild grass and clovers which are being made into hay. This practice was followed to a negligible extent in the past but dire necessity has now made it almost universal.

It is very evident that in their desperate efforts to grow more bread grains many peasants have abandoned their traditional rotation of winter cereals - bare fallow - summer crops.

Some of the men are away from the villages working or looking for work. They return to the villages with little or no money to buy food for their families because they have to compete with official U.N.R.W.A. refugees whose rations enable them to accept cut rates for their labour.

In some frontier villages a proportion of the people are receiving half rations from U.N.R.W.A.; they could not have survived without these rations. Some of the women and children receive milk distributed by U.N.I.C.E.F. Wheat to the value of about J.D.50,000 from funds provided by the second British loan, has been distributed, but the quantity available was so small that only a few people received some.

The recent rains were favourable and, generally, the crops are fair to good. The harvesting of the barley crop has started in some areas and, as harvesting proceeds, conditions will be materially, if temporarily, improved.

Annexure I describes conditions in a few typical frontier villages.

4. Land and Population in Frontier Villages

Annexure II gives the present estimated population in the frontier villages excluding official U.N.R.W.A. refugees, the area of land previously available and the present area divided into four categories. The population in the bigger towns is ~~not~~ excluded.

These figures show that there are 20 dunums of cultivable land (categories 6 to 15) available for each family of 5 persons. The average area of land required in this type of country to support a family is 95 dunums under favourable conditions.

The cultivable area in the hills of Palestine never was, nor can it ever be, sufficient to support the population and the situation is now infinitely worse because a considerable area of the most productive land has been excluded and the opportunities of obtaining an income from employment are few in relation to the large numbers of people who require work. In addition to the people in the frontier villages there are large numbers in Jerusalem, Beit Jala and Bethlehem with no employment at present and with little prospect of getting any in the near future.

5. Proposals for alleviating and improving Conditions in the Frontier Villages.

Any action which is taken to help the people in the frontier villages should have the dual purpose of providing some temporary employment and increasing production from the village lands so that there will be more permanent employment in the future. Paid employment and raising productivity will do far more good than a general increase in the issue of rations. But none of the measures suggested can provide additional means of livelihood for more than a very limited number of people and the major problem of there being too little land to support the population will not be solved.

It is suggested that cash loans should be made to the villagers in the frontier villages for approved works which will result in increased production and provide a larger income and more employment. The loans would be repayable in instalments over a number of years depending on the nature of the project and how soon additional income will result from the work which has been done.

No funds have been allocated from any source specifically to develop and rehabilitate the frontier villages. Unallocated and unspent funds in the British Loan to Jordan might be used for this purpose. The total funds which might be made available from this source are as follows:-

		J.D.
Cement Factory	-	250,000
Mineral Survey	-	50,000
Funds allocated for Jordan Development Bank	-	150,000
Establishment of Co-operative Department	-	50,000
Unallocated	-	50,000
	J.D.	550,000

If U.N.R.W.A. could release say $5,000,000 for assistance to development projects in the frontier villages and generally, in Arab Palestine the pressure from the large numbers of unemployed "unofficial" refugees would be reduced and indirectly reintegration

of some of the "official" refugees would be assisted. However, it is presumed that the consent of the United Nations Organization would have to be obtained, which would not be given in the absence of strong support from the Director General of U.N.R.W.A. and the Advisory Board.

It is possible that American "Point IV" assistance might be given for specific projects.

The following measures are suggested:-

(a) Terracing:

There is still a large area of land suitable for terracing and planting with olives, vines and other plantation crops. The Director of Agriculture estimates that there are 300,000 dunums of land in Arab Palestine which could be developed in this way. Only a proportion of this land belongs to the frontier villages and it is very unlikely that sufficient funds would be available to complete a programme of this magnitude. Although one cannot but express the thought that if the U.N.R.W.A. refugees had been employed on work of this nature most valuable agricultural development would have resulted and the refugees would not have lost their will to work.

I estimate that there are approximately 150,000 dunums of land in the frontier villages which could be reclaimed and terraced. The average cost of terracing is J.D.10 per dunum for stone terracing allowing for an average of 100 metres of terraces of one cubic metre with a daily wage rate of 250 fils per day. To reclaim and terrace all this land would therefore cost J.D.1,500,000. The lands would become far more valuable and productive as a result of terracing and would support a larger number of people than is the case at present. However it must be born in mind that the reclaimed land which is planted with olives or figs or vines will only provide an increase in production and income after a few years.

(b) Water for Irrigation

There are some areas in which more land could be put under irrigation if more wells were sunk and small irrigation schemes constructed to make better use of permanent springs. Many wells have been sunk in the NAblus district but the people cannot make use of them until cement, engines and pumps are supplied. Loans to enable the farmers to buy this essential equipment are required.

It is impossible to give any more than a very approximate estimate of the number of wells which could be sunk which would give economic yields of water. A rough estimate of the number of wells required is sixty. The cost of each well will be approximately J.D.3,800, including the cost of boring, pump, engine, housing and installation.

Drilling for water costs the high price of J.D.10 per metre including the cost of the lining. But there is a local firm, which if given a contract for a minimum number of wells, would be willing to import two boring rigs and charge approximately J.D.5 per metre only. The cost of 60 wells at J.D.3,800 each will be J.D.228,000.

In a few areas small irrigation schemes could be made by opening up springs, building small reservoirs for night storage of water and lining channels; J.D.40,000 should be allocated to works of this nature. Technical assistance will be required to inspect the sites, make plans, estimate costs and supervise the contractors.

(c) Mules and tractors

There is a serious shortage of ploughing animals and production could be increased by importing say 150 mules from Cyprus. In the Jenin district and Hebron district a few tractors are required. J.D.15,000 is required to meet the cost of the tractors and mules.

(d) Minor Projects

Planting material will be required for the new terraces and could be produced in 10 private nurseries of 10 dunums each. Each nursery would cost J.D.800 in capital expenditure and J.D.300 in recurrent expenditure during the first year. The total estimated cost will be J.D.11,000. Each nursery could produce 10,000 nursery trees annually, plus a quantity of vegetable seedlings.

A few professional beekeepers who have lost their hives could be assisted to re-establish themselves by small loans for the purchase of beehives and equipment. J.D.3,000 should be set aside for this purpose and other minor projects which would assist the villagers in becoming productive units of their villages.

The following is a summary of the proposals made above:-

Project	Money Required
Terracing	J.D. 1,500,000
Wells	228,000
Small Irrigation Works	40,000
Mules and tractors	15,000
Minor projects	14,000
	J.D. 1,797 000

If the funds available from the British Loan and from other sources do not exceed say, J.D.400,000, the proportions of expenditure on each project should be reduced as follows:-

Project	Money Required	
Terracing	J.D.	230,000
Wells		120,000
Small Irrigation Works		30,000
Mules and tractors		12,000
Minor Projects		8,000
	J.D.	400,000

Marj Sanur

It is considered that the drainage of the Marj Sanur should be re-considered by U.N.R.W.A. as it would bring about 9,000 dunums of good land into full production and as a subsidiary scheme a large area in the Quabatiya plains could be irrigated.

6. Implementation of Proposals

It is suggested that the Development Board should consider the proposals which have been made and that a sub-committee which would sit in Jerusalem should be appointed. The Development Board would be represented on the sub-committee, but all its members need not necessarily be members of the Development Board. The sub-committee would consider individual projects put forward and applications for loans within the general policy which has been agreed to. The title of the sub-committee might be "The Frontier Villages Loans Committee". The Manager of the Jordan Development Bank is considering the opening of a sub-office in Jerusalem and this office could issue the loans and advances, on instructions from the "Frontier Villages Loans Committee", hold the securities and accept repayment of the advances made. The Bank would make a small charge on all transactions made on behalf of the "Frontier Villages Loans Committee" to meet its additional costs. The Bank would also hold all securities deposited as security for loans made, and if necessary arrangements will have to be made for the Bank to have powers to sue for non-payment of money advanced. This could perhaps be met by a clause in the agreement made between the Bank and the borrowers. The account of the Frontier Villages Loans fund would be kept entirely separate from the ordinary accounts of the Bank.

The security required for loans made would be land owned by these villagers borrowing the money or, in appropriate cases, the unlimited liability of the members of a co-operative society or the village elders and notables. No loans should normally be made which exceed 60 percent of the current value of the security offered including the value of the improvements effected as a result of issuing the loan. Interest at 5 percent per annum would be charged on all loans.

The cost of equipment for wells and the cost of installation would be paid direct to the suppliers. Contractors who undertake the construction of small irrigation schemes would be paid direct.

The assistance of the co-operative adviser of the British Middle East Office in forming co-operative societies would be most valuable. There were a number of co-operative societies in Palestine and some of them could be revived.

For the scheme to succeed it will be essential that the people of the frontier villages should be able to deal direct with an office in Jerusalem.

It is suggested that the "Frontier Village Loans Committee" might consist of the following:-

The Governors of the Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron districts.
Two representatives of the Development Board of whom at least one should come from West Jordan.
The Manager, Jordan Development Bank

The Secretary might be the officer in charge of the proposed west side office of the Jordan Development Bank.

The Agricultural Adviser, British Middle East Office, should be the adviser to the Committee.

SUMMARY

1. There is a far larger population in Arab Palestine than the land can possibly support, even under the most favourable conditions.

2. The situation is far worse in the frontier villages which have lost a large proportion of their lands.

3. Assistance is urgently required to provide work and to enable the villagers to make their lands more productive.

4. It is suggested that J.D.400,000 should be set aside from the unspent balances and unallocated funds of the second British Loan to assist the people in the frontier villages with loans to enable them to increase production and to provide temporary employment.

5. If J.D.400,000 is made available for this purpose it is recommended that it should be allocated approximately as follows:-

	J.D.
Terracing	230,000
Wells	120,000
Small Irrigation Works	30,000
Mules and tractors	12,000
Minor projects	8,000
	400,000

6. A sub-committee of the Jordan Development Board called the "Frontier Village Loans Committee", should be set up to consider and approve applications for loans and assume responsibility for the expenditure of the money made available. This committee should sit in Jerusalem.

7. The issue of the money for loans approved by the "Frontier Village Loans Committee" should be made by the Jordan Development Bank which would open a sub-office in Jerusalem. The bank would hold the securities and be responsible for the repayment of the loans.

5 May 1952.

J. C. Eyre
Agricultural Adviser
British Middle East Office.

ANNEXURE I - Notes on a few typical Frontier Villages

Rummana Village - Jenin Sub-District

Population 1,060.

Original area of village lands was 21,912 dunums. Present area is 10,149 including 6,116 dunums classified as non-cultivable.

There is some doubt as to whether these people have as much as 10,149 dunums, left, they maintain that all they have left is 2,700 dunums of stony but cultivable land, plus 1,300 dunums forest reserve and that some of the land which has been included in their area is in Taiyiba.

Six hundred and fifty people are receiving half-rations from U.N.R.W.A. There are 2,000 official U.N.R.W.A. refugees in the area most of whom came from Haifa.

These people are desperately short of food as they have lost a very large proportion of their good lands. They have sold almost all their movable property of any value. They only have 20 oxen and mules left and hire the additional animals required to plough their lands.

There are about 1,000 dunums suitable for terracing and reclamation.

The prospects of obtaining water for irrigation are very good and the people say that five wells could be sunk if they are given assistance in the way of cement, piping, engines etc. The people would much prefer assistance in providing irrigation to assistance for terracing. They are anxious to form themselves into a co-operative society. There is much indebtedness to merchants in Jenin.

A tractor would be of assistance for ploughing some of the plains land.

Imwas Village - Ramallah Sub-District

Population 1,740

Original area of village lands was 17,278 dunums. Present area is 2,500 dunums including 773 dunums of non-cultivable land. There is a very large area of good land on the Israel side of the boundary which is not being cultivated.

Some of the men are away working or looking for work but all the women and children have remained in the village. The people are very short of food and numbers of them were in the fields collecting wild vetch to eat. Most movable goods have been sold.

One thousand two hundred to one thousand five hundred dunums could be terraced and reclaimed and planted to olives and vines. If these lands are reclaimed there will be sufficient production to maintain about 45 families or 225 people.

The prospects of finding water for irrigation are not promising but the villagers say that a "Greek" made a bore some years ago and they believe that he found water but the bore has been closed up.

El Burj Village - Hebron District

Population 2,000

Original area of village lands including lands in Beersheba district was 40,000 - 45,000 dunums. Present area available to villagers is 4,000 dunums including 1,200 dunums which are cultivable.

This village is in an extremely dry and infertile area in the south-west of Hebron district. The crops are very poor and only very small harvests will be gathered. The people do not receive any U.N.R.W.A. rations. One hundred people have left the village.

Much of the land belonging to these people is grazing land and they owned large herds of cattle, camels and small stock. The number of cattle they now own is about 1,000. The Mukhtar previously owned 150 cattle but now owns only 5.

There are enormous areas of uncultivated land on the Israel side including a fairly fertile valley. The frontier has separated the village from its water supplies and a little to the north it bisects another village. The villagers state that for two years the Israelis ploughed up some of the land in the valley but did not sow any crops. It would be best to move these people from the village unless the demarcation line is moved very much further south and west or alternatively they should be supplied with rations. They have no other prospect but starvation at present.

A very steep hillside has been cleared and partly terraced. The land has been planted with vines and olives but in this dry area returns will be small. About 1,200 dunums could be terraced and planted.

U.N.R.W.A. promised to repair a water cistern but nothing has been done. They go across the frontier at night to get water from their old well.

Almost all their movable assets have been sold a nd they are heavily in debt to the merchants of Hebron.

Conditions in Dhahariya village are very similar. Yusuf Bey says that Dr. Lambi estimates that about 40 percent of the people are suffering from T.B. resulting from starvation.

One cannot but be impressed with the patience of these people, but the patience has developed into resignation.

Battir Village - Bethlehem sub-district

Population 1,260

Original area of village lands was 8,028 dunums. Present area is 6,706 dunums including 3,183 dunums classified as non-cultivable.

Present productive area is 3,453 dunums. Seven hundred people receive half-rations from U.N.R.W.A.

The lands are rocky and steep and are bisected by a deep gorge through which the railway to Jerusalem passes. Some of the best olive groves and vineyards are on the Israel side of the frontier and also the village school. During the Mandate only about five percent of the working population worked on the lands, the remainder worked in Jerusalem and on the railways.

The villagers have developed a most remarkable system of irrigation from the village spring on a small area of land. The spring is about 150 feet above the railway and the very steep almost perpendicular cliff has been developed into a series of perfectly made small terraces which are divided up into small rectangular beds in which vegetables are being grown. There is also much new stone terracing and reclamation and the people are literally creating productive soil out of steep, rocky, slopes. These people are making a wonderful effort to help themselves. Any help which is given from outside sources would be of considerable assistance.

Two thousand dunums including some land which is at present classified as incultivable could be reclaimed and terraced.

There is another spring at the top of the hill which could be opened, night storage tanks constructed and the water properly canalised. The villages estimate that if this is done another fifty dunums could be irrigated, the cost may be say, J.D.3,500.

If the new spring is opened up and canalised and more land is reclaimed the total potential production of the village will support about eighty families or 400 people.

Qûattana Village - Jerusalem sub-district

Population 1,380.

Original area of village lands was 9,464 dunums. Present area is 3,766 dunums of which 2,886 dunums are classified as non-cultivable and forest land. The productive area left is 848 dunums.

All the land which this village has is rocky steep land with only a negligible area suitable for grain production. Most of the people are receiving half-rations from U.N.R.W.A. and there are 100 official U.N.R.W.A. refugees who receive full rations. The people look half-starved and the children are dull and look under-nourished. The present crop will not make much difference as the area of arable crops is so small. There will be some income and food from olives, vines and figs.

A large proportion of the population worked for wages during the Mandate. Work could be provided by terracing and reclaiming an area of 800 dunums which includes some of the land at present classified as non-cultivable. Olives and vines would be planted. There are possibilities of providing water for irrigation.

If these lands are reclaimed there will be enough land to provide forty families (200 people) with a living.

Conditions in this village are very bad indeed and there is an urgent need of assistance. Some of the men are away working or looking for work but when they return they bring back little or no money, but this is of assistance as there are fewer persons to feed in the village.

Qualqiliya Village - Tulkarm sub-district

Population 7,020

Original area of village lands was 27,915 dunums. Present area is 10,740 dunums.

Most of the land which has been lost is very good, fertile land in the plains and includes much irrigated land and citrus groves. The Israelis have built a large number of small houses almost on the present boundary.

The people of this area have always been noted for their excellent farming and they are now doing all they can to make the best use of the land which has been left to them.

Twenty-three wells have been sunk or are being sunk but only two of them have motors and are in use. Work has ceased on eleven wells because there is no more money. One company of thirty farmers has paid J.D.3,000 for a Ruston and Hornsby engine, a pump, etc. They bought some second-hand pipes in Iraq. They badly need more piping and cement for lining channels as water is running to waste. They have some excellent crops of potatoes and vegetables but they fear a glut and asked what could be done with their produce if this happens. Qualquiliya produce comes on the market early but after the Jordan Valley produce and it could be exported to the oil fields from Jericho.

The Arab Land Company has assisted with loans for developing irrigation but the interest rate at nine percent is high and the amount of the loan which is made must not exceed fifty percent of the value of the security.

These people are deserving of far more help and should be encouraged. They say they have applied to the Jordan Development Bank for assistance but their request was refused; they think that the reason is that they are too close to the Israel frontier.

Under the most favourable conditions it is unlikely that more than 300 families or say 1,500 people can obtain a fair living from the lands which are left.

Mr. Eyre's Report on Conditions on the West Bank.

1. I have no comments to make on the technical side of the report. I agree with what Mr. Eyre has written.

2. I am concerned more with the finding of the money.

3. The sums estimated by Mr. Eyre are very considerable. I can see no possibility of finding all the money from the British Loan.

4. My expectation is that the most we shall be able to persuade the Jordan Government to spend from the loan will be:-

a) £50,000 from the item "Irrigation";

b) £100,000 from the item "Development Bank";

c) £100,000 from the item "Unallocated";

Total £250,000.

This total may well prove to be a dream.

5. Four (a) may be the easiest to get agreement on, as "Irrigation" is one of the scheduled items. Terracing and purchase of animals may be much more difficult.

6. We might suggest the diversion of some of the unspent balance of the first Loan.

7. I agree with Mr. Eyre's idea of using the Development Bank to make loans. This will have to be discussed in detail with its Manager.

8. I do not recommend using the Agricultural Bank, whose record is a bad one.

9. As regards using the Development Bank, as suggested by Mr. Eyre, we may have difficulty in persuading the Jordan Government to agree.to this or if it fails to stop the director of the Bank from vetoeing loans for the West Bank.

10. It seems to me that the reluctance of the Jordan Government to spend money on the West Bank is political; why I cannot say, for it would seem only common-sense to help them and so still political disquiet there.

11. Should my fears come true then I suggest that H.M.G. should bring pressure to bear on the Jordan Government to spend a reasonable share of the loan on the West Bank. (The only scheduled item for the West Bank is £100,000 for Kallundia Airport which will not help the villages surveyed by Mr. Eyre.)

H.M.G. might also hint that compliance will influence H.M.G. in considering any further loan.

12. I would not like this pressure to be used before the Development has made a start.

13. I suggest that we should have an early informal meeting with U.S. Point IV and U.N.R.W.A. to see if they are prepared to undertake any schemes on the West Bank.

14. I have referred continually to the Jordan Government and not to the Development Board, because the latter will be taking orders from the former.

ANNEXURE II

Population and Land in Frontier Villages

S U M M A R Y.

District	Sub-District	Population (excluding Refugees)	Original Area of sub-dist. (in dunums)	Present Area Available (in dunums)				
				Fruit & Olive Platations. Cats 6 - 8.	Cultivable land Cats 9 - 15.	Non Cultivable land and forests Cat. 16	Villages built on Area. Cat. 4	Total Area of land remaining.
NABLUS DISTRICT								
	Jenin	10260	311110	9262	30436	74016	294	114008
	Nablus	7500	327912	16407	88810	200399	267	305883
	Tulkaram	39020	306221	36233	57959	16755	824	111781
JERUSALEM DISTRICT.								
	Bethlehem	6230	171491	3287	8896	144422	187	156792
	Jerusalem	7230	98275	2217	8859	76374	281	87741
	Ramallah	2850	28647	4660	10045	8024	158	22887
	Ramallah (Prov.Ramle)	11430	139146	10786	16835	30620	417	58708
HEBRON DISTRICT.								
	Hebron	34630	1412699	12473	155965	470864	1254	640556
	Grand Total	118750	2795501	95320	377875	1021474	3682	1498356

NOTE:- Nineteen frontier villages which have lost only a negligible proportion of their good land have not been included and the bigger towns have also been excluded.

Sub-District		Name of Frontier Villages and villages which have lost their lands	Population (excluding refugees)	Original area of village (in dunums)	Present Area Available (in dunums) Fruit & oli[illegible] plantations (Cats. 6 - [illegible])	Cultivable land. (Cats. 9 - 15)	Non cultivable land and forests Cat. 16	Village built on Area. Cat. 4	Total Area of land remaining	REMARKS.
NABLUS DISTRICT.										
JENIN		'Anin	700	15052	728	1173	8963	16	10880	
		'Arabbuna	250	7675	306	3288	2525	22	6141	
	S.	Barta'a (incl. Khirbet Tura el Gharbieh)	1200	22420	349	2827	9634	27	12837	
		Faqqu'a	1050	30179	520	1656	7270	27	9473	
		Jalama	550	5629	90	2345	550	15	3000	(2/3 area belongs to Abdul Hadi)
		Jalbun	730	33892	241	2356	7409	25	10031	
		Khirbet et Taiyiba (prov. a Khirbat in Umm el Fahm lands)	400	77242	80	625	1195	-	1900	Inhabitants probabl classified as refugees.
		El Mughayir (incl.Khirbat el Mutilla)	260	15949	267	3026	8344	6	11643	
		Raba	1040	26359	805	5556	15960	21	22342	
		Rummana	1060	21912	2232	1767	6116	34	10149	
		Silat el Harithiya	2230	31667	2534	1421	5177	80	9212	Inland village
		Ti'innik	120	9808	506	3743	571	5	4825	
		Zubaba	670	13326	604	653	302	16	1575	
		Total	10260	311110	9262	30436	74016	294	114008	
Nablus		Deir Ballut	860	14789	508	2948	8670	63	12189	Lost lands in Majda Yaba - extend unkown
		Tubas (incl. Kashda and Bardala)	6640	313123	15899	85862	191729	204	293694	
		Total	7500	327912	16407	88810	200399	267	305883	
Tulkaram	S.	'Anabta & Iktaba	3740	23115	5894	6659	3407	84	16044	Inland Village
		'Attil	3180	32800	4663	2263	104	86	7116	
	S.	Dannuba	890	11721	855	4560	130	39	5584	Inland Village
	S.	Deir el Ghusun	3430	27770	11288	2709	708	74	14779	
	S.	Far'un	850	8850	620	4633	1118	24	6395	
	S.	Habla	700	10902	115	3540	3055	15	6725	
	S.	'Irtah	1270	2949	212	871	336	39	1458	
		Kafr Jammal	830	14945	2236	5587	1873	19	9715	
		Kafr Sur	540	10926	833	6565	1548	14	8960	
		Total Carried Forward	15430	143978	26716	37387	12279	394	76776	

Sub-District	Name of Frontier villages and villages which have lost their lands	Population (excluding Refugees	Original area of village (in dunums)	Present area available (in dunums) Fruit & Olive Plantations Cats. 6 - 8.	Cultivable land. Cats 9 - 15.	Non Cultivable land & forests Cat. 16.	Village built on area Cat. 4	Total area of land remaining	REMARKS.
Tulkeram. (Cont.)	Totals B.F..	15430	143978	2816	37387	12279	394	76776	
	S. Khirbat Ibara (prov.part of Et Taihiba Village)	x	38797	100	811	1717	-	2628	Inhabitants probably classified as refugees
	Qaffin	1880	23755	1867	2649	1524	28	10068	
	S. Qalqiliya	7020	27915	402	9609	456	273	10740	
	S. Shuweika	2840	17919	1421	2734	287	96	5538	
	S. Tulkeram	9710	32610	183	3465	277	-	3925	Total 3925 Dunums exclude Urban Area extend unkownn
	Zeita	2140	21247	544	1314	215	33	2106	
	Total	39020	306221	30233	57969	16755	824	111781	
JERUSALEM DISTRICT.									
Bethlehem	Battir	1260	8028	1444	2009	3183	70	6706	
	Beit Safafa	1690	3314	896	627	797	55	2375	Lost lands J'lem Urban Area - extend unkmown.
	Sur Bahir & Umm Tuba	2940	9471	721	3470	4003	56	8250	- Ditto -
	Wadi Fukin	340	9928	226	81	3098	6	3411	
	'Arab Er Rashayida	x	140750	-	2709	133341	-	136050	Inhabitants Bedouins probabl classified as refugees.
	Total	6230	171491	3287	8896	144422	187	156792	
Jerusalem	Beit Iksa	1690	9273	1096	2753	4188	43	8080	
	Beit Surik	580	6949	596	923	3105	33	4657	
	Qatanna	1380	9464	427	421	2886	32	3766	
	Silwan	4580	5421	44	1674	2279	173	4170	Lost lands in Jerusalem Urban area
	Arab es Shawahira	x	67168	54	3098	63916	-	67068	
	Total	7230	98275	2217	8869	76374	281	87741	
Ramallah	Beit Liqya	1250	14358	1918	6469	4274	39	12700	
	Beit Sira	650	4687	206	1198	760	23	2187	
	Saffa	950	9602	2536	2378	2990	96	8000	
	Total	2850	28647	4660	10045	8024	158	22887	

x Population unknown

S. Village settled under the Land (Settlement of Title) Ordinance.

Sub-District	Name of Frontier Villages and Villages which have lost their lands	Population (excluding Refugees)	Original Area of village (in dunums)	Present area available (in dunums) Fruit & Olive Plantations Cats. 6 - 8	Cultivable Land Cats 9 - 15	Non Cultivable land & forests Cat.16	Village built on area Cat. 4	Total area of land remaining	REMARKS.
Ramallah (prov. Eamle	S. Beit Nuba & Ajanjul	1490	11401	279	2629	229	63	3200	Partly "settled
	Budrus	610	7935	703	622	506	19	1850	
	'Imwas	1740	17278	713	866	773	148	2500	
	El Midya	380	7020	373	247	473	7	1100	
	Ni'lia	1700	18070	5775	2084	5596	29	13484	
	Oibya	1500	16504	418	1593	2808	31	4850	
	Rantis	1540	30933	593	1750	8627	30	11000	Lost land in Majdal Yaba village - extend unkown
	Shgba Shugba	1010	15013	1418	3788	7941	16	13163	
	Yalu	1460	14992	514	3306	3667	74	7561	
	Total	11430	139146	10786	16885	30620	417	58708	
HEBRON DISTRICT.									
Hebron	Beit Aula	1570	25045	1329	9157	12393	71	22950	
	Edh Dhahiriya	4510	120854	254	33708	66193	286	100441	
	Dura	11640	240704	3131	34813	104516	226	142686	
	Idna	2630	34002	560	7725	12347	153	20785	
	El Jab'a	250	7345	179	2140	3807	12	6138	
	Kharas	1160	9841	615	3201	2962	38	6816	Inland Village
	Nuba	910	16136	370	5690	4489	33	10582	
	Es Samu	3020	138872	124	13849	31534	165	45672	
	Surif	2630	42728	2489	5670	19709	54	27922	
	Yatta	6310	174172	3422	40012	62914	216	106564	
	Arab el Jahalin (& Ka'abra	x	603000	-	-	150000	-	150000	Inhabitants Bedouin - probably classified as refugees
	Total	34630	1412699	12473	155965	470864	1254	640556	

x Polulation unknown

S. Villages "settled" under the Land (Settlemer ; of Titles) Ordinance.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/18

FROM

Dr Landsborough Thomson
Medical Research Council.

No. To Miss Waterlow

Dated

Received in Registry— 20. 5. 52.
24. 5. 52.

Institution of Economic Refugees.

Returns report by Drs. Burgess & Van Veen.
Discusses the high rate of infant mortality.

REFERENCES

E E 1827/16

MINUTES

Copy to Sir H Knight
M 27/5

(Print)

(How disposed of)

copy for H. Knight, Beirut
5 June

(Action completed)

(Index)

38679

Keep with MRC.

E.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Telephone: WHITEHALL 4884.
Telegrams: MEDRESCO, PARL-LONDON.

PRIVY COUNCIL

38 OLD QUEEN STREET,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.1.

520/2

20th May, 1952.

E 1827/16

E 1827/18

Dear Miss Waterlow,

Many thanks for your letter of the 7th May forwarding the report by Dr. R.C. Burgess and Dr. A.G. van Veen on the 'Nutrition Problems of the Palestine Arab Refugees'. I return the report herewith.

Sir John Taylor has given me the following comments:

> "It appears that, on the basic UNRWA ration, the state of nutrition of the refugees is fair although there is a certain amount of vitamin deficiency. They are much better off than many of the local villagers who do not get the ration.
>
> "There are, however, high infantile mortality and neo-natal death rates associated with the occurrence of gastro-enteritis in infants, probably due to unsuitable supplementary feeding by the mothers. Weight at birth is normal but growth and weight do not progress satisfactorily. Of major importance is the dried skim milk ration for infants. This is expensive and now becoming difficult to keep up."

We note that a pilot investigation on milk substitutes is being undertaken. As we are responsible for some similar work in East Africa any further information would be of interest to us.

Yours sincerely,

A. Landsborough Thomson

Miss C. Waterlow,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
23 MAY 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
7/2

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/19

FROM

Chancery, Amman.

~~to~~ MES

No. 18205/24

Dated 27-5-52

Received in Registry— 4-6-52

Distribution of milk - frontier villages.

Mr Hamilton of UNICEF has stated that the UNICEF Council will stop distributing milk - the Autumn.

Last Paper

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Minutes)

The improvement in the health of the frontier villagers is satisfactory. the threatened cessation of UNICEF supplies disturbing.

eWatalow 5/6

E Dept (Mr ~~Pirie Gordon~~)

UNE Dept (Mr L.J. Evans)

Can we not add our voice to UNRWA's? Jm Hunter 6/6

Reached me 14/6.

In view of our poor record in contributing to UNICEF we are not in a strong position to contest the Fund's decisions about priorities in its field of work. We could however ask Mr Anderson to look into the matter and see what, if anything, can be done. Vigorous protest hardly seems to be the right line.

[signature] 16/6

(Action completed) [signature] 8/7

(Index) [signature] 16/10

Next Paper

Now see 120, & also EE 1821/22.

ew 7/7

36206

18205/24

E

British Legation,
Amman.

CONFIDENTIAL

27th May 1952.

E E1827/19

Dear Secretariat,

In connection with our reports on conditions in the frontier villages of Palestine, you might like to know that Mr. Hamilton of UNICEF called upon this Legation last week after he had made a tour of the frontier villages where milk supplies are now being distributed.

2. Mr. Hamilton thought that he saw a small improvement in the spirits of the people both as a result of this distribution of milk to children and because there is a little more occasional agricultural work to be found after this year's good rains. He said that the UNICEF Council had agreed to continue this milk distribution until the Autumn, but that thereafter they were intending to cut out their contribution of milk to UNRWA for the feeding of refugee children and mothers with ration cards. We understand that UNRWA Headquarters in Beirut are protesting vigorously against this intention since if it is carried out, it will make their promised reduction in relief costs more than ever impracticable.

Yours ever,
CHANCERY

Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
= 4 JUN 1952
SENT TO REGT.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1827/20

FROM

Mr Anderson, U.K. Del, N. York, ~~to~~ Mr Evans.

No. 1827/62/52E.

Dated

Received in Registry— 2.6.52 6.6.52.

Last Paper

References

EE1821/22

EE1827/19.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 8/7

(Index) 10/10

Next Paper

Aid from UNICEF

It is unlikely that UNICEF will allocate further relief supplies to UNRWA. Gives reason.

Copied) Beirut, W. Ran.

(Minutes.)

UNE Dept. do not consider that we are in a strong position to ~~get~~ ~~to~~ press UNICEF to continue their assistance to UNRWA for the refugees proper beyond November. (see 1/19.) If they do not, an additional $1.3m. will have to be added to UNRWA's budget - (see EE1821/23). If UNICEF do not continue their programme ~~[illegible]~~ 17/6.

~~UNE Dept~~

for the "economic refugees" in Jordan (see E1821/22) the prospect for these people will be black indeed, since UNRWA also threatening to cut off supplies from them (see EE1821/23.)

E Dept (Mr Hunter) HAP 25/6

~~E Dept~~

UNE Dept.

~~Discussed~~ 3/7

C Waterlow 17/6

EW 7/7

34839

UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION
to the UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

No. 1827/62/52E.

CONFIDENTIAL --- AIR BAG.

2 June 1952.

E 1827/20

Dear Evans,

We have received under cover of Sir Henry Knight's compliments slip No. AC 56, dated 22nd May, a copy of the confidential monthly report of U.N.R.W.A. activities for April 1952, pages 9 and 10 of which refer to relations with U.N.I.C.E.F.

2. You are familiar with the background to this and my object in writing to you is simply to record my impressions, from attendance at the meetings, that the Board of U.N.I.C.E.F. is unlikely to approve any further allocations of this order of magnitude for relief supplies for U.N.R.W.A. in future. The reasons are shortage of funds and the feeling that a Fund having a universal mandate should not devote a high proportion of its monies to relieving emergency situations in limited areas of the world where the United Nations have set up separate agencies (e.g. U.N.K.R.A. and U.N.R.W.A.), which are in any case raising voluntary contributions on a greater scale than U.N.I.C.E.F.

3. I am sending a copy of this letter to Sir H. Knight at Beirut and to Ronald Bailey in Washington.

Yours ever
Frank Anderson

(C. M. Anderson)

T. J. Evans, Esq., O.B.E.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S. W. 1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
-6 JUN 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
9/6

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

GERMANY: SUPPLIES

E E1827/21

FROM

Sir T. Rapp, BMEO Fayid.

No. 14 (110/53/3)

Dated 30. 5. 52.

Received in Registry— 6. 6. 52.

Economic Refugees.

Transmits copy of a report by Mr Eyre, agricultural adviser, on conditions in & around the West Jordan frontier villages.

Last Paper

References

EE1102/1
EE1827/17
ET1109/1

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Tel) Beirut 801
Rpy BMEO Fayid 759
Amman 366
26 June.
Dev. Div, Beirut. f. MEJ 1 Sept
Cl. Amman for MEJ. 1 Sept
copy) Knight, UNRWA
BMEO Fayid. 1 Sept
Russell Edmonds, Tay.

(Minutes.)

The Report has already been copied to the Treasury - see /17.
Draft to Amman submitted.

CWatkins 29/8.

E. Dept. (Mr Hunter) 30/8

UNE Dept. 2/9

CW 1/9.

See within:-

A) BMEO Fayid 388 of 19/6 (add. to Beirut)

B) Beirut 29(5) of 16/6 (add. to BMEO)

CW 3/9.

C) Mr Rogers, BMEO Fayid to Mr Richmond. (903/1 of 11 Sept)

Pl. note.
Mrs Wilson E.W 18/9.
Eastern Div. 19/9
Afr. Div. 13/9
Greece Div.

The letter in question was copied to BMEO Fayid, not Beirut. It should of course have been copied to both.
Pl. note para 2.

CW 17/9

(Action completed)	(Index)
3/9	10/10

Next Paper

ET1105/15 (53)

34839

E 1827/21

E

No. 14
110/53/3
CONFIDENTIAL

British Middle East Office,
Political Division,
G.H.Q.,
M.E.L.F. 17.

30th May, 1952.

FE 1102/1

Sir,

With further reference to Jerusalem despatch No. 9 of the 9th February and the report by Mr. Walmsley on economic conditions in West Jordan which accompanied it, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith copies of a report which Mr. J. C. Eyre, my Agricultural Adviser, has now written on conditions in and around the villages in West Jordan which are near the armistice line between Jordan and Israel and in which the bulk of the so-called "economic" refugees are concentrated. You have already received an advance copy and preliminary comments by Her Majesty's Minister at Amman and Mr. Crawford with the former's letter 18205/2 of the 5th May to Mr. Evans. The report should in addition be read in conjunction with Mr. Cheesman's report on the possibility of co-operative development in Jordan (B.M.E.O. Cairo despatch No. 9 of the 17th March) especially as Mr. Eyre endorses Mr. Cheesman's opinion that co-operative development would help greatly and points out that Mr. Cheesman's continued personal advice would be of great value.

E 1827/17

ET 1109/1

2. Mr. Eyre's report speaks for itself. While specialist departments will wish to study his detailed analyses I should like to make the point that the report's great value to non-specialist planners is the definite if limited proposals made in paragraphs 5 and 6 and in the summary of the main text, and the attention which Mr. Eyre has paid to the probable cost of these specific schemes. Here we come up again against the essential poverty of Jordan despite British and international subventions, and against

The Right Honourable Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P., /the unfair
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
9 JUN 1952
SENT TO D.R.C.

the unfair share of the refugee burden she has to bear. Whereas Mr. Eyre, having specified an optimum expenditure of Jordan dinars 1,728,000 for the schemes he suggests, goes on to suggest a reduced scale of development expenditure of J.D. 400,000, presumably on his calculation that that would be the essential minimum, Mr. Crawford is doubtful whether, as things stand at present, even J.D. 250,000 could be secured from the £1,500,000 being lent to Jordan by H.M.G. I endorse the view of Mr. Furlonge and Mr. Crawford that pressure for increased allocations from the British loan would be more suitably applied through the Development Board than, for the present at least, by political pressure on the Jordan Government direct. Whether UNWRA could be induced to part with funds to give direct assistance in this question - which so far as "economic" refugees are concerned is not strictly within their purview - is doubtful and may depend partly on whether they get the chance to spend considerable sums on resettlement in Syria. Finally as regards the internal finance of any schemes put into effect I would draw your attention to the passages in Mr. Cheesman's report on co-operative development which deal with finance; co-operatives might have the merit, over other organisations designed to rehabilitate, of fostering a community spirit and once the Development Board and Development Bank have provided funds for the schemes generally there may be some advantage in encouraging projects to be so far as possible self-responsible and self-accounting.

3. I am sending copies of this despatch with its enclosure to the Development Division and to Sir Henry

/ Knight

Knight at Beirut and to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Jerusalem, and without enclosure to Her Majesty's Minister at Amman and to Mr. Crawford.

I have the honour to be
with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. Lapp

CONFIDENTIAL

The "Frontier" Village of Arab Palestine

J.C. Eyre, Agricultural Adviser,

British Middle East Office.

Itinerary of Tour:

2nd April	- Beirut to Amman
2-10th April	- Amman
10-12 April	- Nablus
12-16th April	- Ramallah
17-25th April	- Jerusalem
26th April	- Return to Amman

2. Purpose of Tour

This tour was made to find out what immediate and practical action can be taken to relieve the present conditions of semi-starvation and unemployment in the frontier villages of Arab Palestine on the present Israel - Jordan frontier, and to suggest measures which would increase agricultural production in these areas.

3. Towns and Villages visited.

It was not possible, nor was it necessary to investigate conditions in all the frontier villages. The following sample villages and towns were visited:-
Qualqilia, Nablus, Heit, Surik, Beit Iksa, Biddu, El Qubeiba, Qatanna, Bethlehem, Beit Safafa, Battir, Wadi Fukin, Jerusalem, Ramallah Beit Nuba, Imwas, Yalu, Saffam Beit Sira, Hebron, Dharhariya, El Burj.

4. Conditions in the Frontier Villages

H.M. Consul at Jerusalem, Mr. A.R. Walmsley, has written a report on economic conditions in Arab Palestine, and, in general, my investigations confirm his opinion.

In almost all the frontier villages I visited the people are living on the borderline of starvation. The men were lethargic and many did not look fit for hard labour and the children were listless and appeared to me to be very undernourished. I saw large numbers of peasants out in the fields collecting wild plants to use as food, especially a wild vetch, the season for which will soon be over. Large quantities of movable property such as furniture and beds, and in one village, even some of the doors and windows from the houses have been sold to obtain cash to buy food.

/Some...

Some of the lands were ploughed too late and in some villages lands were not ploughed and planted at all because ploughing animals were sold last year because of the need to buy food, and of the severe drought and, where lands have been lost to Israel, of the restricted areas for grazing animals.

The efforts which the people are making to help themselves are most impressive. New terracing and land reclamation work is to be seen in all areas. In the Nablus district many new wells have been sunk by hand labour even down to depths of 200 feet; engines, pumps and cement are now required but available cash resources and saleable goods are exhausted. In parts of Bethlehem sub-district I saw small pockets of soil being made from stony, unprofitable hillsides which have been classified as uncultivable. At El Burj in Hebron district, bare steep hillsides have been terraced and planted with vines and olives.

The shortage of grazing land and animal fodder is being relived everywhere by hand collection of wild grass and clovers which are being made into hay. This practice was followed to a negligible extent in the past but dire necessity has now made it almost universal.

It is very evident that in their desparate efforts to grow more bread grain many peasants have abandoned their traditional rotation of winter cereals - bare fallow - summer crops.

Some of the men are away from the villages working or looking for work. They return to the villages with little or no money to buy food for their families because they have to compete with official U.N.R.W.A. refugees whose rations enable them to accept cut rates for their labour.

In some frontier villages a proportion of the people are receiving half rations from UNRWA; they could not have survived without these rations. Some of the women and children receive milk distributed by U,N.I.C.E.F. Wheat to the value of about J.D.30,000 from funds provided by the second British loan, has been distributed, but the quantity available was so small that only a few people received some.

The recent rains were favourable and, generally, the crops are fair to good. The harvesting of the barley crop has started in some areas and, as harvesting proceeds, conditions will be materially, if temporarily, improved.

Annexure I describes conditions in a few typical frontier villages.

4. Land and Population in Frontier Villages

Annexure II gives the present estimated population in the frontier villages excluding official U.N.R.W.A. refugees, the area of land previously available and the present area divided into four categories. The population in the bigger towns is excluded.

These figures show that there are 20 dunums of cultivated land (categories 6 to 15) available for each family of 5 persons. The average area of land required in this type of country to support a family is 95 dunums under favourable conditions.

/The cultivable...

The cultivable area in the hills of Palestine never was, nor can it ever be, sufficient to support the population and the situation is now infinitely worse because of considerable area of the most productive land has been excluded and the opportunities of obtaining an income from employment are few in relatiom to the large numbers of people who require work. In addition to the people in the frontier villages there are large numbers in Jerusalem. Beit Jala, and Bethlehem with no employment at present and with little prospect of getting any in the near future.

5. Proposal for alleviating and improving conditions in the Frontier Villages

Any action which is taken to help the people in the frontier villages should have the dual purpose of providing some temporary employment and increasing production from the village lands so that there will be more permanent employment in the future, Paid employment and raising productivity will do far more good than a general increase in the issue of rations. But none of the measures suggested can provide additional means of livelihood for more than a very limited number of people and the major problems of there being too little land to support the population will not be solved.

It is suggested that cash loans should be made to the villagers in the frontier villages for approved work which will result in increased production and provide a larger income and more employment. The loans would be repayable in instalments over a number of years depending in the nature of the project and how soon additional income will result from the work which has been done.

No funds have been allocated from any ssource specifically to develop and re-habilitate the frontier villages. Unallocated and unspent funds in the British Loan to Jordan might be used for this purpose. The total funds which might be made available from this source are as follows:-

	J.D.
Cement Factory	- 250,000
Mineral Survey	- 50,000
Funds allocated for Jordan Development Bank	- 150,000
Establishment of Co-operative Department	- 50,000
Unallocated	- 50,000
J.D.	550,000

If U.N.R.W.A. could release say £ 5,000,000 for assistance to development projects in the frontier villages and generally, in Arab Palestine the pressure from the large numbers of unemployed "unofficial" refugees would be reduced and indirectly reintegration of some of the "official" refugees would be assisted. However, it is presumdd that the consent of the United Nations Organisation would have to be obtained which would not be given in the absence of strong support from the Director General of U.N.R.W.A. and the Advisory Board.

/It is..

It is possible that American "Point IV" assistance might be given for specific projects.

The following measures are suggested:-

(a) Terracing:

There is still a large area of land suitable for terracing and planting with olives, vines and other plantation crops. The Director of Agriculture estimates that there are 300,000 dunums of land in Arab Palestine which could be developed in this way, Only a proportion of this land belongs to the frontier villages and it is very unlikely that sufficient funds would be available to complete a programme of this magnitude. Although one cannot but express the thought that if the U.N.R.W.A. refugees had been employed on work of this nature most valuable agricultural development would have resulted and the refugees would not have lost their will to work.

I estimate that there are approximately 150,000 dunums of land in the frontier villages which could be reclaimed and terraced. The average cost of terracing is J.D. 10 per dunum for stone terracing allowing for an average of 100 metres of terrace of one cubic metre with a daily wage rate of 250 fils, per day, To reclaim and terrace all this land would there ore cost J.D.1,500,000. The lands would become far more valuable and productive as a result of terracing and would support a larger number of people than is the case at present. However, it must be borne in mind that the reclaimed land which is planted with olives or figs or vines will only provide an increase in production and income after a few years.

(b) Water for Irrigation

There are some areas in which more land could be put under irrigation if morewells were sunk and small irrigation schemes constructed to make better use of permanent springs. Many wells have been sunk in the Nablus district but the people cannot make use of them until cement, engines and pumps are supplied. Loans to enable the farmers to buy this essential equipment. are required.

It is impossible to give any more than a very approximate esrimate of the number of wells which could be sunk which would give economic yields of water. A rough estimate of the number of wells required is sixty. The cost of eachwell will be approximately J.D.3,800, including the cost of boring, pump, engine, housing and installation.

Drilling for water costs the high price of J.D.10 per metre including the cost of the lining, But there is a local firm, which if given a contract for a mimimum number of wells, would be willing to import two boring rigs and charge approximately J.D. 5 per metre only. The cost of 60 wells at J.D.3,800 ~~each will be J.D.228,000~~.

In a few areas small irrigation schemes could be made by opening up springs, building small reservoirs for night storage of water and lining channels; J.D.40,000 should be allocated to works of this nature. Technical assistance will be required to inspect the sites, make plans, estimate costs and supervise the contractors.

/(c) Mules.

(c) Mules and tractors

There is a serious shortage of ploughing animals and production could be increased by importing say 150 mules from Cyprus. In the Jenin district and Hebron district a few tractors are required J.D.15,000 is required to meet the cost of the tractors and mules.

(d) Minor Projects

Planting material will be required for the new terraces and could be produced in 10 private nurseries of 10 dunums each. Each nursery would cost J.D.800 in capital expenditure and J.D. 300 in recurrent expenditure during the first year, The total estimated cost will be J.D.11,000. Each nursery could produce 10,000 nursery trees annually, plus a quantity of vegetable seedlings.

A few professional beekeepers who have lost their hives could be assisted to re-establish themselves by small loans for the purchase of beehives and equipment. J.D.3,000 should be set aside for this purpose and other minor projects which would assist the villagers in becoming productive units of their villages.

The following is a summary of the proposals made above:-

Project	Money Required.
Terracing	J.D. 1,500,000
Wells	228,000
Small Irrigation Works	40,000
Mules and Tractors	15,000
Minor Projects	14,000
	J.D. 1,797,000

If the funds available from the British Loan and from other sources do not exceed say, J.D.400,000, the proportions of expenditure on each project should be reduced as follows:-

Project	Money Required.
Terracing	J.D. 230,000
Wells	120,000
Small Irrigation Works	30,000
Mules and Tractors	12,000
Minor Projects	8,000
	J.D. 400,000

Marj Sanur

It is considered that the drainage of the Marj Sanur should be re-considered by U.N.R.W.A. as it would bring about 9,000 dunums of good land into full production and as a subsidiary scheme a large area in the Quabatiya plains could be irrigated.

/6. Implementation...

6. Implementation of Proposals

It is suggested that the Development Board should consider the proposals which have been made and that a sub-committee which would sit in Jerusalem should be appointed. The Development Board would be represented on the sub-committee, but all its members need not necessarily be members of the Development Board. The sub-committee would consider individual projects put forward and applications for loans within the general policy which has been agreed to. The title of the sub-committee might be "The Frontier Villages Loans Committee". The Manager of the Jordan Development Bank is considering the opening of a sub-office in Jerusalem and this office could issue the loans and advances on instructions from the "Frontier Villages Loans Committee", hold the securities and accept repayment of the advances made. The Bank would make a small charge on all transactions made on behalf of the "Frontier Villages Loans Committee" to meet its additional costs. The Bank would also hold all securities deposited as security for loans made, and if necessary arrangements will have to be made for the Bank to have powers to sue for non-payment of money advanced. This could perhaps be met by a clause in the agreement made between the Bank and the borrowers. The account of the Frontier Villages Loans fund would be kept entirely separate from the ordinary accounts of the Bank.

The security required for loans made would be land owned by these villagers borrowing the money, or, in appropriate cases, the unlimited liability of the members of a co-operative society or the village elders and notables. No loans should normally be made which exceed 60 per cent of the current value of the security offered including the value of the improvements effected as a result of issuing the loan. Interest at 5 percent per annum would be charged on all loans.

The cost of equipment for wells and the cost of installation would be paid direct to the suppliers. Contractors who undertake the construction of small irrigation schemes would be paid direct.

The assistance of the co-operative adviser of the British Middle East Office in forming co-operative societies would be most valuable. There were a number of co-operative societies in Palestine and some of them could be revived.

For the scheme to succeed it will be essential that the people of the Frontier Villages should be able to deal with an office in Jerusalem.

It is suggested that the "Frontier Village Loans Committee" might consist of the following:-

The Governor of the Jerusalem, Nablus and Hebron districts.
Two representatives of the Development Board of whom at least one should come from West Jordan.
The Manager, Jordan Development Bank

The Secretary might be the officer in charge of the proposed west side office of the Jordan Development Bank.

The Agricultural Adviser British Middle East Office, should be the adviser to the Committee.

/Summary

SUMMARY

1. There is a far larger population in Arab Palestine than the land can possibly support, even under the most favourable conditions.

2. The situation is far worse in the frontier villages which have lost a large proportion of their lands.

3. Assistance is urgently required to provide work and to enable the villagers to make their lands more productive.

4. It is suggested that J.D.400,000 should be set aside from the unspent balances and unallocated funds of the second British Loan to assist the people in the frontier villages with loans to enable them to increase production and to provide temporary employment.

5. If J.D.400,000 is made available for this purpose it is recommended that it should be allocated approximately as follows:-

	J.D.
Terracing	230,000
Wells	120,000
Small Irrigation Works	30,000
Mules and Tractors	12,000
Minor projects	8,000
	400,000

6. A sub-committee of the Jordan Development Board called the "Frontier Village Loans Committee", should be set up to consider and approve applications for loans and assume responsibility for the expenditure of the money made available. This committee should sit in Jerusalem.

7. The issue of the money for loans approved by the "Frontier Village Loans Committee" should be made by the Jordan Development Board which would open a sub-office in Jerusalem. The bank would hold the securities and be responsible for the repayment of the loans.

Agricultural Adviser,
British Middle East Office.

5 May 1952.

ANNEXURE I - Notes on a few typical Frontier Villages

Rummana Village - Jenin Sub-District

Population 1,060.

Original area of village lands was 21,912 dunums. Present area is 10,149 including 6,116 dunums classified as non-cultivable.

There is some doubt as to whether these people have as much as 10,149 dunums, left, they maintain that all they have is 2,700 dunums of stony but cultivable land, plus 1,300 dunums forest reserve and that some of the land which has been included in their area is in Taiyiba.

Six huhdred and fifty people are receiving half-rations from U.N.R.W.A. There are 2,000 official U.N.R.W.A. refugees in the area most of whom came from Haifa.

These people are desparately short of food as they have lost a very large proportion of their good lands. They have sold almost all their movable property of any value. They only have 20 oxen and mules left and hire the additional animals required to plough their lands.

There are about 1,000 dunums suitable for terracing and reclamation.

The prospects of obtaining water for irrigation are very good and the people say that five wells could be sunk if they are given assistance in the way of cement, piping, engines etc. The people would much prefer assistance in providing irrigation to assistance for terracing. They are anxious to form themselves into a co-operative society. There is much indebtedness to merchants in Jenin.

A tractor would be of assistance for ploughing some of the plains land.

Imwas Village - Ramallah Sub-District.

Population 1,740

Original area of village lands was 17,278 dunums. Present area is 2,500 dunums including 773 dunums of non-cultivable land. There is a very large area of good land on the Israel side of the boundary which is not being cultivated.

Some of the men are away working or looking for work but all the women and children have remained in the village. The people are very short of food and numbers of them were in the fields collecting wild vetch to eat. Most movable goods have been sold.

One thousand two hundred to one thousand five hundred dunums could be terraced and reclaimed and planted to dives and vines. If these lands are reclaimed there will be sufficient production to maintain 45 families or 225 people.

/The..

The proppects of finding water for irrigation are not promising but the villagers say that a "Greek" made a bore some years ago and they believe that he found water but the bore has been closed up.

El Burj Village - Hebron District

Population 2,000

Original area of village lands including lands in Beesheba district was 40,000 - 45,00 dunums. Present area available to villagers is 40,000 dunums including 1,200 dunums which are cultivable.

This village is in an extremely dry and infertile area in the south-west of Hebron district. The crops are very poor and only very small harvests will be gathered. The people do not receive any U.N.R.W.A. rations. One hundred people have left the village.

Much of the land belonging to these people is grazing land and they owned large herds cattle, camels and small stock. The number of cattle they now own is about 1,000. The Mukhtar previously owned 150 cattle but now owns only 5.

There are enormous areas of uncultivated land on the Israel side including a fairly fertile valley The Frontier has separated the village from its water supplies and a little to the north it bisects another village. The villagers state that for two years the Israelis ploughed up some of the land in the valley but did not sow any crops. It would be best to move these people from the village unless the demarcation line is moved very much further south and west or alternatively they should be supplied with rations. They have no other prospect but starvation at present.

A very steep hillside has been cleared and partly terraced. The land has been planted with vines and olives but in this dry area returns will be small. About 1,200 dunums could be terraced and planted.

U.N.R.W.A. promised to repair a water cistern but nothing has been done. They go across the frontier at night to get water from their old well.

Almost all their movable assets have been sold and they are heavily in debt to the merchants of Hebron.

Conditions in Dhaariya village are very similar. Yusuf Bey says that Dr. Lambi estimates that about 40 percent of the people are suffering from T.B. resulting from starvation.

One cannot but be impressed with the patience of these people, but the patience has developed into resignation.

/Battir...

Battir Village - Bethlehem sub-district

Population 1,260

Original area of village lands was 8,028 dunums. Present are is 6,706 dunums including 3,183 dunums classified as non-cultivable.

Present productive area is 3,453 dunums,
Seven hundred people receive half -rations from U.N.R.W.A.

The lands are rocky and steep and are bisected by a deep gorge through which the railway to Jerusalem passes, Some of the best olives groves and vineyards are on the Israel side of the frontier and also the village school. During the Mandate only about five parcent of the working population worked on the lands, the remainder worked in Jerusalem and on the railways.

The villagers have developed a most remarkable system of irrigation from the village spring on a small area of land. The spring is about 150 feet above the railway and the very steep almost perpendicular cliff has been developed into a series of perfectly made small terraces which are divided up into small rectangular beds in which vegetables are being grown. There is also much now stone terracing and reclamation and the people are literally creating productive soil out of steep, rocky slopes. These people are making a wonderful effort to help themselves. Any help which is given from outside sources would be of considerable assistance.

Two thousand dunums including some land which is at present classified as incultivable could be reclaimed and terraced.

There is another spring at the top of the hill which could be opened, night storage tanks constructed and the water properly canalised. The villages estimate that if this is done another fifty dunums could be irrigated, the cost may be say J.D.3,500.

If the new spring is opened up and canalised and more land is reclaimed the total potential production of the village will support about eighty families or 400 people.

Quattana Village - Jerusalem sub-district.

Population 1,380

Original area of village lands was 9,464 dunums. Present area is 3,766 dunums of which 2,886 dunums are classified as non-cultivable and forest land. The productive area left is 848 dunums.

All the land which this village has is rocky steep land with only a negligible area suitable for grain production. Most of the people are receiving half-rations from U.N.R.W.A. and there are 100 official U.N.R.W.A. refugees who receive full rations. The people look half-starved and the children are dull and look under-nourished. The present crop will not make much difference as the area of arable cropsis so small. There will be some income and food from olives, vines and figs.

/A large...

A large proportion of the population worked for wages during the Mandate, Work could be provided by terracing and reclaiming an area of 800 dunums which includes some of the land at present classified as non-cultivable. Olives and vines would be planted. There are possibilities of providing water for irrigation.

If these lands are reclaimed there will be enough land to provide forty families (200 people) with a living.

Conditions in this village are very bad indeed and there is an urgent need for assistance. Some of the men are away working or looking for work but when they return they bring back little or no money, but this is of assistance as there are fewer persons to feed in the village.

Qualqiliya Village - Tulkarm sub-district

Population 7,080

Original area of village lands was 27,915 dunums. Present area is 10,740 dunums.

Most of the land which has been lost is very good fertile land in the plains and includes much irrigated land and citrus groves. The Israelis have built a large number of small houses almost on the present boundary.

The people of this area have always been noted for their excellent farming and they are now doing all they can to make the best use of the land which has been left to them.

Twenty-three wells have been sunk or are being sunk but only two of them have motors and are in use. Work has ceased on eleven wells because there is no money. One company of thirty farmers has paid J.D.3,000 for a Ruston and Hornsby engine, a pump etc. They bought some second-hand pipes in Iraq. They badly need more piping and cement for lining channels as water is running to waste. They have some excellent crops of potatoes and vegetables but they fear a glut and asked what could be done with their produce if this happened. Qualquiliya produce comes on the market early but after the Jordan Valley produce and it could be exported to the oil fields from Jericho.

The Arab Land Compny has assisted with loans for developing irrigation but the interest rate at nine percent is high and the amount of the loan which is made must not exceed fifty percent of the value of the security.

These people are deserving of far more help and should be encouraged They say they have applied to the Jordan Development Bank for assistance but their request was refused; they think that the reason is that they are too close to the Israel frontier.

Under the most favourable conditions it is unlikely that more than 300 families or say 1,500 people can obtain a fair living from the lands which are left.

ANNEXURE II

Population and Land in Frontier Villages

SUMMARY

District	Sub-District	Population (excluding Refugees)	Original Area of sub-dist. (in dunums)	Present Area Available (in dunums) Fruit & Olive Plantations Cats 6-8.	Cultivable land Cats 9-15.	Non Cultivable land & forests Cat. 16.	Villages built on Area. Cat.4	Total Area of land remaining
NABLUS DISTRICT								
	Jenin	10260	311110	9262	30436	74016	294	114008
	Nablus	7500	327912	16407	88810	200399	267	305883
	Tulkaram	39020	306221	36233	57969	16755	824	111781
JERUSALEM DISTRICT								
	Bethlehem	6230	171491	3287	8896	144422	187	156792
	Jerusalem	7230	98275	2217	8869	76374	281	87741
	Ramallah	2850	28647	4660	10045	8024	158	22887
	Ramallah (prov. Ramle)	11430	139146	10786	16885	30620	417	58708
HEBRON DISTRICT								
	Hebron	34630	1412699	12473	155965	470864	1254	640556
	Grand Total	118750	2795501	95320	377875	1021474	3682	1498356

NOTE:- Nineteen frontier villages which have lost only a negligible proportion of their good land have not been included and the bigger towns have also been excluded.

Sub-District	Name of Frontier Villages & villages which have lost their lands	Population (excluding refugees)	Original area of village (in dunums)	Present Area Available (in dunums) Fruit & Olive plantations (Cats.6 - 8	Cultivable land. (Cats. 9 - 15).	Non-cultivable land & forests Cat. 16	Village built on Area. Cat.4.	Total Area of land remaining	REMARKS
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
NABLUS DISTRICT									
JENIN	'Anin	700	15052	728	1173	8963	16	10880	
	'Arabbuna	250	7675	306	3288	2525	22	6141	
	S. Barta'a (incl. Khirbet Tura el Gharbieh)	1200	22420	349	2827	9634	27	12837	
	Faqqu'a	1050	30179	520	1656	7270	27	9473	
	Jalama	550	5629	90	2345	550	15	3000	(2/3 area belongs to Abdul Hadi)
	Jalbun	730	33892	241	2356	7409	25	10031	
	Khirbet et Taiyiba (prov. a Khirbat in Umm el Fahm lands).	400	77242	80	625	1195	-	1900	Inhabitants probably classified as refugees.
	El Mughayir (incl. Khirbat el Mutilla)	260	15949	267	3026	8344	6	11643	
	Raba	1040	26359	805	5556	15960	21	22342	
	Rummana	1060	21912	2232	1767	6116	34	10149	
	Silat el Harithiya	2230	31667	2534	1421	5177	80	9212	Inland village
	Ti'innik	120	9808	506	3743	571	5	4825	
	Zubaba	670	13326	604	653	302	16	1575	
	Total	10260	311110	9262	30436	74016	294	114008	
Nablus	Deir Ballut	860	14789	508	2948	8670	63	12189	Lost lands in Majda Yaba - extent unknown
	Tubas (incl. Kashda & Bardala)	6640	313123	15899	85862	191729	204	293694	
	Total	7500	327912	16407	88810	200399	267	305883	

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
	TOTAL B.F.	7500	327912	16407	88810	200399	267	305833	
Tulkaram	S. 'Anabta & Iktaba	3740	23115	5894	6659	3407	84	16044	Inland Village
	'Attil	3180	32800	4663	2263	104	86	7116	
	S. Dannuba	890	11721	855	4560	130	39	5584	Inland Village
	S. Deir el Ghusun	3430	27770	11288	2709	708	74	14979	
	S. Far'un	850	8850	620	4633	1118	24	6395	
	S. Habla	700	10902	115	3540	3055	15	6725	
	S. 'Irtah	1270	2949	212	871	336	39	1458	
	Kafr Jammal	830	14945	2236	5587	1873	19	9715	
	Kafr Sur	540	10926	833	6565	1548	14	8960	
	S. Khirbat Ibara (Prov. part of Et Taihiba Village).	x	38797	100	811	1717	-	2628	Inhabitants probably classified as refugees.
	Qaffin	1880	23755	5867	2649	1524	283	10068	
	S. Qalqiliya	7020	27915	402	9609	456	273	10740	
	S. Shuweika	2840	17919	2421	2734	287	96	5538	
	S. Tulkaram	9710	32610	183	3465	277	-	3925	Total 3925 Dunums exclude Urban Area, extent unknown.
	Zeita	2140	21247	544	1314	215	33	2106	
	TOTAL	39020	306221	36233	57969	16755	824	111781	

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
JERUSALEM DISTRICT									
Bethlehem	Battir	1260	8028	1444	2009	3183	70	6706	
	Beit Safafa	1690	3314	896	627	797	55	2375	Lost lands J'lem Urban Area - extent unknown.
	Sur Bahir & Umm Tuba	2940	9471	721	3470	4003	56	8250	- Ditto -
	Wadi Fukin	340	9928	226	81	3098	6	3411	
	'Arab Br Rashayida	x	140750	-	2709	133341	-	136050	Inhabitants Bedouins probably classified as refugees.
	Total	6230	171491	3287	8896	144422	187	156792	
Jerusalem	Beit Iksa	1690	9273	1096	2753	4188	43	8080	
	Beit Surik	580	6949	596	923	3105	33	4657	
	Qatanna	1380	9464	427	421	2886	32	3766	
	Silwan	4580	5421	44	1674	2279	173	4170	Lost lands in Jerusalem Urban area.
	Arab es Shawahira	x	67168	54	3098	63916	-	67068	
	Total	7230	98275	2217	8869	76374	281	87741	
Ramallah	Beit Liqya	1250	14358	1918	6469	4274	39	12700	
	Beit Sira	650	4687	206	1198	760	23	2187	
	Saffa	950	9602	2536	2378	2990	96	8000	
	Total	2850	28647	4660	10045	8024	158	22887	

x Population unknown

S. Village settled under the Land (Settlement of Title) Ordinance.

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Ramallah (prov. Eamle)	S. Beit Nuba & Ajanjul	1490	11401	279	2629	229	63	3200	Partly "settled"
	Budrus	610	7935	703	622	506	19	1850	
	'Imwas	1740	17278	713	866	773	148	2500	
	El Midya	380	7020	373	247	473	7	1100	
	Ni'lia	1700	18070	5775	2084	5596	29	13484	
	Oibya	1500	16504	418	1593	2808	31	4850	
	Rantis	1540	30933	593	1750	8627	30	11000	Lost land in Majdal Yaba village - extent unknown.
	Shugba	1010	15013	1418	3788	7941	16	13163	
	Yalu	1460	14992	514	3306	3667	74	7561	
	Total	11430	139146	10786	16885	30620	417	58708	
HEBRON DISTRICT									
Hebron	Beit Aula	1570	25045	1329	9157	12393	71	22950	
	Edh Dhahiriya	4510	120854	254	33708	66193	286	100441	
	Dura	11640	240704	3131	34813	104516	226	142686	
	Idna	2630	34002	560	7725	12347	153	20785	
	El Jab'a	250	7345	179	2140	3807	12	6138	
	Total B.F.	20600	427950	5453	87543	199356	748	293000	

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
HEBRON DISTRICT (Contd.)									
Hebron	Total B.F.	20600	427950	5453	87543	199356	748	293000	
	Kharas	1160	9841	615	3201	2962	38	6816	Inland Village
	Nuba	910	16136	370	5690	4489	33	10502	
	Es Samu	3020	138872	124	13849	31534	165	45672	
	Surif	2630	42728	2439	5670	19709	54	27922	
	Yatta	6310	174172	3422	40012	62914	216	106564	
	Arab el Jahalin (& Ka'abra)	x	603000	-	-	150000	-	150000	Inhabitants Bedouin - probably classified as refugees
	Total	34630	1412699	12473	155965	470864	1254	640556	

x Population unknown.

S. Villages "settled" under the Land (Settlement of Titles) Ordinance.

E 1827/21

RESTRICTED

FROM B.M.E.O. (FAYID) TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Code R

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Stephenson
No. 388
19th June. 1952.

D. 8.26 a.m. 20th June, 1952.
R. 10.06 a.m. 20th June, 1952.

RESTRICTED

Addressed to Beirut telegram No. 66 of 19th June, Repeated for information to Amman and Foreign Office.

Your telegram No. 91. M/P.

Assuming report to be that with British Middle East Office despatch No. 14 to Foreign Office I have no objection subject to agreement of Chargé d'Affaires Amman.

EE 1827/21.

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat.

K K K K

21 JUN 1952

TELEGRAM.

E 1827/21/E

Cypher CONFIDENTIAL ADVANCING TELEGRAM

Code Telegram Out.

Clear

From:— BEIRUT *To:—* B.M.E.O. FAYID

CB

ADVANCE COPY

Despatched 6.20 16/6 Received

Files

No. 91 of 16th June, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

Repeated for information Saving to Foreign Office No. 29 and Amman No. 34.

Following from Myers.

May I show Eyre's report on the Frontier Village to my colleagues on the Advisory Commission and to UNRWA Directorate?

SSSSSS

DISTRIBUTION

1. UNRWA (2 copies).
2. Chancery.
3. Library.
4. H. M. Minister.
5. Saving copies (3) for F.O. and (1) to Amman.

25 JUN 1952 BRITISH LEGATION BEIRUT

(13024) Wt. 39967-1608 150m in 3 sorts 1/47 G.S.St. Gp. 620

CONFIDENTIAL

INWARD SAVING TELEGRAM

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

By bag

FILES

Mr. Barnes
No. 29 Saving
16th June, 1952

R. 24th June, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to British Middle East Office (Fayid)
telegram No. 91 of 16th June, 1952
Repeated for information Saving to
Foreign Office Amman

Following from Myers.

May I show Eyre's report on the Frontier Village to my colleagues on the Advisory Commission and to U.N.R.W.A. Directorate?

PPPP

Registry
No. EE 1827/21

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

EMERGENCY
IMMEDIATE
PRIORITY
ROUTINE
~~with~~
without priority
DEFERRED

(Date) 26 JUN 1952

Despatched 6.2 p.M.

Draft.

Telegram to :—

Beirut

[*Security classification —if any*]

Addressed to Beirut.

telegram No. 501 *(date)* 26/6/52

repeated for information to BIMEO (Fayid) and Amman.

No. 501

(Date) June 26

Repeat to :— 759

BIMEO (Fayid)

Amman 366

Following for MYERS. from RAPP.

Your tel. No. 91 to BIMEO Fayid.

You may circulate paras 1 to 5, but not repeat not paragraph 6, as suggested.

EWR 26/6.

En Clair.
~~*Code.*~~
~~*Cypher*~~

Distribution :—

N:1

RECEIVED IN C.R.
27 JUN 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

Copies to :—

4
26/6/52
WRA

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(41381) WT.29195/220 125,000 11/50. A.&E.W.LTD. Gp.685

20 ffs

Registry
No. EE 1827/21

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
~~Confidential.~~
~~Restricted.~~
Open.

Draft.

to
Development
Division,
BMEO
Beirut
from
MES.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

RECEIVED IN
DIVISION
1 SEP 1952
SENT TO TYPE 1/9
DESPATCHED

(12733) 7/51 D.L.

P.S. toc

OUTFILE

Dear Development Division, 1/2 1/4

We shall be grateful if you could send us a few additional copies of Mr Eyre's report on the "Frontier Villages of Arab Palestine", forwarded under cover of your despatch No. 14 of May 30th.

Yours ever,

M.E. Secretariat.

EW 1/9.

(EE 1827/21)

UNCLASSIFIED

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

1st September, 1952.

OUTFILE

Dear Development Division,

We should be grateful if you could send us a few additional copies of Mr. Eyre's report on the "Frontier Villages of Arab Palestine", forwarded under cover of your despatch No. 14 of 30th May.

Yours ever,

MIDDLE EAST SECRETARIAT.

Development Division,
British Middle East Office,
Beirut.

(Miss Waterlow.)
Registry
No. EE 1827/21.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

The Chancery,
Amman.

FROM :
Middle East
Secretariat.

E. Dept.

COPY to :
1. Colonel W. Russell-Edmunds, O.B.E., T.D., Treasury.
2. Sir Henry Knight.
3. B.M.E.O., Fayid.

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
1 SEP 1952
SENT TO TYPE
DESPATCHED

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(26000) Wt 48969-208 200m. 4/50. G.S.St.

OUTFILE 43c

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.
September, 1952.

Dear Chancery,

We ~~were glad to see~~ from your letter 11016/2 of the 10th July that the Development Board has decided to allocate JD190,000. for "Frontier Village Development" and has set up a Sub-Committee to prepare a plan for the expenditure of this sum.

2. We should be glad to have any available information about this plan. It will, presumably, be based on Eyre's Report (B.M.E.O. despatch No. 14 of the 30th May). If so, we have one comment to make. Eyre recommends the expenditure of comparatively large sums of money on terracing. ~~These sums include the proposed payment of a wage~~ of 250 fils a day as well as the cost of purchasing plants, seeds and implements. We assume from this that the 150,000 dunums which Eyre estimates to be available for terracing in the frontier villages are not owned by the villagers themselves but by local landlords. (The reference on page 2 of the Report to the efforts which the villagers are already making to help themselves by terracing and land reclammation presumably relates to land which the villagers own themselves). If this is the case, ~~would~~ might it not be possible for the Development Board to work out with the villagers and the Government and/or landlords some arrangement whereby the villagers at present unemployed carry out the terracing ~~without asking for a~~ for no wage, but in return for a share of the resulting crops or even the ~~keeping~~ gift of a small part of the terraced land. In this way both land owners and villagers would benefit, while overhead ~~costs would be kept to the minimum, leaving the~~ money available .....

Registry
No.

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

We should like to know who will be the eventual owner of the improvements thus made. In other words who owns the land on which the terracing is to be carried out. If the owner is the State or the villagers himself ~~so much the~~ all is well but if he is a private landlord he should surely contribute to this improvement. ~~He~~

refugees will be forthcoming for the next year at least, the prospects of the continuation of the small amount of international relief which the economic refugees are now receiving are very uncertain. U.N.R.W.A., who are now considering special measures to reduce the cost of direct relief, may feel obliged to eliminate the half rations which they are, we understand, giving some £0,000 of the economic refugees - though we have instructed our representatives on the Advisory Commission to resist this. U.N.I.C.E.F.'s programme of assistance for 35,000 of the economic refugees is due to end ~~at~~ to end of the year — though we are glad to note from your letter ~~and we have no information about any arrangements~~ No 18205/34 of July 16th that there is a prospect ~~for its continuation.~~ it continuing until the middle of next year.

Since we cannot exclude the possibility of U.N.R.W.A. having to cut off the supply of half rations to the economic refugees,

4.3 We hope, ~~therefore,~~ that the Development Board will press ahead with its programme for frontier village development as a matter of first

/priority and .....

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN

~~money available from the loan t~~

to the purchase of productive ca

for this and other projects for he

villagers.

3. One argument against this sugges

that, if they could get economic refug

this basis, employers in Jordan might b

inclined to engage refugee labour at ~~adeq~~ adequate to

wage rates, ~~thus~~ enabling U.N.R.W.A. to st

off the ration list. It must, however, be

in mind that the conditions of the economic

is worse than those of the refugees proper, and

measures to rehabilitate them are therefore eve

more urgent. Moreover, while there is every

reasonable prospect that continued relief for the

refugees will be forthcoming for the next year at

least, the prospects of the continuation of the

small amount of international relief which the

economic refugees are now receiving are very

uncertain. U.N.R.W.A., who are now considering

special measures to reduce the cost of direct

relief, may feel obliged to eliminate the half

rations which they are, we understand, giving some

20,000 of the economic refugees - though

we have instructed our representatives on the

Advisory Commission to resist this. U.N.I.C.E.F.'s

programme of assistance for 35,000 of the economic

refugees is due to end at the end of the year — though

~~and we have no information about any arrangements~~ we are glad to note from your letter No. 18205/34 of July 16th that there is a prospect

~~for its continuation.~~ of it continuing until the middle of next year.

4.3 We hope, ~~therefore,~~ that the Development Since we cannot exclude the possibility of U.N.R.W.A. having to cut off the supply of half rations to the economic refugees,

Board will press ahead with its programme for

frontier village development as a matter of first

/priority and .....

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN

priority and will succeed in securing the full co-operation of the local interests concerned. ~~Is there any chance that~~ The JD190,000 programme ~~will presumably~~ be supplemented by loans from the Development Bank? (we should be glad to know whether the Bank has now opened its proposed branch in Jerusalem ~~or all~~ of them); ~~for~~ projects which are being carried out under American Point IV programmes ~~and~~ or will be carried out under U.N.R.W.A.'s $11.m. programme. ~~(though this has not yet, we understand, received the formal concurrence of the Jordan Government).~~ ~~If the Point IV and~~ U.N.R.W.A.'s authorities agree to co-operate with the Development Board in giving first priority to the frontier areas in implementing these programmes, then there would, we hope, be some prospect of setting the economic refugees on their feet and averting a disaster if international relief does come to an end within ~~the next few months.~~

5. We are sending copies of this letter for information to Sir Henry Knight, and to BMEO. at Fayid.

Yours ever,

MIDDLE EAST SECRETARIAT.

CW 1/9.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

(35041) Wt.17583/163 50,000 6/48 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.685
(36841) Wt.31782/171 85,000 11/48 " "

(EE 1827/21)

CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

1st September, 1952.

OUTFILE

Dear Chancery,

We were glad to see from your letter 11016/2 of the 10th July that the Development Board has decided to allocate JD190,000. for "frontier Village Development" and has set up a Sub-Committee to prepare a plan for the expenditure of this sum.

2. We should be glad to have any available information about this plan. It will, presumably, be based on Eyre's Report (British Middle East Office despatch No. 14 of the 30th May). If so, we have one comment to make. Eyre recommends the expenditure of comparatively large sums of money on terracing. We should like to know who will be the eventual owner of the improvements thus made. In other words who owns the land on which the terracing is to be carried out. If the owner is the State or the villager himself all is well but if he is a private landlord he should surely contribute to this improvement.

3. Since we cannot exclude the possibility of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency having to cut off the supply of half rations to the economic refugees, we hope that the Development Board will press ahead with its programme for frontier village development as a matter of first priority and will succeed in securing the full co-operation of the local interests concerned. Will the JD190,000 programme be supplemented by loans from the Development Bank? (we should be glad to know whether the Bank has now opened its proposed branch in Jerusalem); or by projects which are being carried out under United States Point IV programmes or will be carried out under United Nations Relief and Works Agency's $11.m. programme.

4. We are sending copies of this letter for information to Sir Henry Knight, and to British Middle East Office at Fayid.

Yours ever,

MIDDLE EAST SECRETARIAT.

The Chancery,
British Legation,
Amman.

INDEXED
E1827/21 (c)

British Middle East Office,
Political Division,
G.H.Q.,
M.E.L.F. 17.

CONFIDENTIAL

11th September, 1952.

903/1

Dear Richmond,

I have just noticed that the Secretariat's letter EE 1827/21 of the 1st September about "Frontier Village Development" in Jordan has been sent to Fayid in error. The text of the letter says that a copy is being sent to the British Middle East Office at Fayid whereas the compliment slip attached is addressed to Development Division, British Middle East Office, but with the location Fayid instead of Beirut.

2. We are sending a copy of the letter to Development Division but the bag service is such that they cannot now receive it until Friday, the 19th September. Since slips of this kind are likely to result in such considerable delays you may wish to check that all concerned with the physical despatch of letters are clearly aware of the distinction between B.M.E.O. Fayid, and Development Division, B.M.E.O. Beirut. Many posts are adopting the practice of specifying at the end of their letters to which Division of the Office copies are being sent. The "tail" thus reads "we are sending copies of this letter to the British Middle East Office at Fayid and to the Development Division, British Middle East Office at Beirut". This seems to be a very satisfactory practice and you may like to adopt it.

Yours ever,

G.W.Furlonge

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
15 SEP 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
17/9

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/22.

1952

FROM

Mr Myers
Beirut.

To Mr Evans.

No. HC 5/2.

Dated

Received in Registry— 26. 6. 52. 2. 7. 52

Aid from UNICEF

At the meeting of Adcom on 25 June, representatives of contributing powers were urged to impress on their Governments the need for continued aid from UNICEF

Last Paper

References

1/20

(Print)

(How disposed of)

By Mr Myers, Beirut for Miss Waterlow 10 July.

(Minutes)

UNICEF have decided to discontinue their programme of assistance to the Arab refugees at the end of March. The cost of continuing this programme till June 1953 would be $1.3m. If UNICEF maintain their refusal this sum will almost certainly have to be found by UNRWA; the alternative will be to reduce the ration level of rations, below 1600, which is probably unacceptable to refugees unsettleable. See EE 1821/23.

UNE ~~Dept~~ for info. E Waterlow 7/7

See Mr Anderson's letter on 1/20 and Mr Scopes' minute on 1/19. I have no further observation except that we have heard that US Congress has considerably reduced ~~its~~ the US contribution to UNICEF. It will be about $6 million; not $18 million as stated in the letter written.

E. Howard 10/7

EW 10/7

(Action completed) 11/7

(Index) $10/10

Next Paper

37021

(AC 5/2)

CONFIDENTIAL

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT
c/o British Legation,
BEIRUT.

26th June, 1952.

E 1827/22

Dear Evans,

At yesterday's meeting of Adcom. It was decided that the representatives of the contributing powers should impress on their Governments the great need for continued support by UNICEF to the UNRWA programme.

2. If the support is not forthcoming, the sum of $1.3 million will have to be added to the budget for the fiscal year 1952/53.

3. Locke reports that UNICEF will receive a very substantial contribution from the United States, somewhere in the neighbourhood of $18 million, and he can see no reason why they should not continue their assistance.

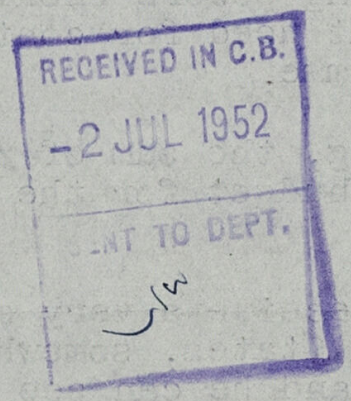
4. It would then be a great help to the Agency if the British would press strongly for the continuance of assistance.

5. I am sending a copy of this letter to UKDel New York and to Washington.

Yours ever,

(O.H. MYERS)

T.E. Evans, Esq., O.B.E.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.


RECEIVED IN C.B.
-2 JUL 1952
TO DEPT.

COPY.

OUTFILE

EE 1827/22.
CONFIDENTIAL.

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W. 1.
10th July, 1952.

Your letter AC 5/2 of the 26th June to Trefor Evans about the need for continuing U.N.I.C.E.F.'s programme for the Arab refugees.

2. As already explained in my letter E 1821/23 of the 1st July, unfortunately we are not in a strong position to put any pressure on U.N.I.C.E.F. in this matter. As regards the American contribution, we have now heard that Congress has peduced the proposed figure of $18.m. to about $6.m.

3. We hope our Delegation at New York, to whom I am copying this letter, will do what they can to put forward U.N.R.W.A.'s case when U.N.I.C.E.F.'s future programme is considered, but, as I have said, our wicket is sticky.

4. I am also sending a copy of this letter to the Chancery at Washington.

O.H.Myers, Esq.,
British Legation,
Beirut.

(C. Waterlow.)

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/23

FROM

Chancery
Amman
~~to~~ MEJ

No. 18205/34.

Dated

Received in Registry— 16.7.52. 23.7.52

UNICEF aid to refugees.

UNICEF have signed a general agreement with the Jordan Govt. Their M.E. representative said that he thought milk supplies for the frontier villages could be assured for the first six months of 1953.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

UNE Dept. E.H 29/7

CW 26/7

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 31/7

(Index) 16/10

Next Paper

37021

18205/34

CONFIDENTIAL.

H.M.Legation,

AMMAN.

16th July, 1952.

E 1827/23

Dear Secretariat,

On July 8th the Jordan Government signed a general agreement with UNICEF. Mr.Ehrenstrale, the Middle East Representative of UNICEF in Beirut visited Amman for the purpose.

2. Mr.Ehrenstrale called upon this Legation and said that he thought milk supplies for the frontier villages would be assured during the first six months of 1953. He also sought our opinion on what UNICEF could usefully do to provide help in maternal and child care. We gave our opinion that any help would be welcome, but that a special effort should be made to decentralise this aid from Amman and spread information by means of small clinics throughout the larger villages in the country.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

The Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
23 JUL 1952
CONF. DEPT.

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1827 | 24

1952

FROM
Mr Bailey.
Washington
To Miss Waterlow

No. 22221/83/52.
Dated
Received in Registry— 24.7.52. 28.7.52.

UNICEF aid to refugees.

Because of the reduction in the proposed American contribution, the State Department feel that they are hardly in a position to urge UNICEF to continue its help to the refugees.
Copied to UNRWA, & UK Del, NYork.

Last Paper

(Minutes)

UNE Dept. E1H1/8

CW 3.0/7

References

-/22

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 5/8

(Index) 16/10

Next Paper

35825

AIR BAG
CONFIDENTIAL
22221/83/52

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
24th July 1952.

EE 1827/24

Dear Charlotte,

Your letter EE 1827/22 of the 10th July to Oliver Myers about the need for continuing UNICEF's programme for the Arab refugees.

As you say Congress have now reduced the proposed American contribution from $18 million to approximately $6.6 million. The State Department feel that, in view of this substantial cut, they too are hardly in a position to put any pressure on UNICEF to continue its help to the refugees.

2. I am sending a copy of this letter to Myers at Beirut and to UKDEL, New York.

Yours sincerely,

Ronald Bailey

R. W. Bailey.

Miss Charlotte Waterlow,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
28 JUL 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/25

FROM
Mr T. Raffi.
BMCO Fauj'd
Comm'd.

No. 110/53/3.

Dated 12.6.52

Received in Registry— 18.6.52.

West Bank of Jordan Refugees.

Personal note on the problems of Arab Palestine by Mr J.C. Eyre.

Last Paper.

References.

— 17/21

EE1073/30

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

I am afraid that these Notes got tied in with some other papers. I have now had them entered separately. You may care to see in connection with the affairs of the Morrison.

CWaterlow
3/9

Mr Dullar HNP 4/9
E. Dept.

Mr Gandy 4/9
Mr Blunt Jr. 4/9.

CW 5/9.

(Action completed.) 8/9

(Index.) 10/10

Next Paper.

26513 F.O.P.

E E1827/21/G

British Middle East Office,
Political Division,
GHQ. MELF.17.

SECRET

110/53/3

12th June, 1952.

E E1827/25

EE1073/30

[Dear Furlonge]

You will have seen from my letter 101/38/1 of 2nd June that in the course of his recent visit to the frontier areas in Jordan, Tyre gathered a number of impressions about the political feelings of the inhabitants. These were of course not incorporated in his report, a copy of which you sent to Ross with your letter 18205/21 of 5th May. He has since, at my suggestion, drafted and sent to me a personal note on the problems in Arab Palestine which will, I think, be of interest to you and on which you may wish to comment.

EE1827/17

These notes are of particular interest when read in conjunction with the proposals and opinions of Dr. Morrison to which I referred in my letter of 2nd June.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to Evans at Tel Aviv and to Ross in the Foreign Office. I am also sending to Evans a copy of my letter of 2nd June, which was not originally copied to him.

(T. C. Rapp)

G. W. Furlonge, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
British Legation,
Amman.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
13 OCT. 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
43

SECRET

Notes on the Problems of Arab Palestine

by

J.C. Eyre, Agricultural Adviser, B.M.E.O.

During April, 1952 a fortnight was spent in Arab Palestine touring the frontier villages to investigate conditions and to find out what practical measures can be taken to alleviate the present conditions of unemployment and semi-starvation and to make these areas more self-sufficing and productive.

I met a number of Arab friends who knew me during the Mandate. They, and others, were anxious to tell me about their present troubles, the causes of them and to try and find out whether there are any prospects of some improvement. I met Jordan Government officials, ex-Palestine officials, Mukhtars and elders of villages, businessmen and farmers.

The following are some impressions which I gathered through meeting these people and notes on various matters, which may be of interest and value:-

Attitude towards the British

I am quite certain that an appreciable proportion of the Arabs in Arab Palestine are favourably disposed towards the British despite present difficulties and some resentment of our actions and policy during the final stages of the termination of the Mandate. Much of this sentiment arises from a nostalgia for what is frequently referred to as "the good old days of the Mandate" and some of it arises from a belief that the only real friends the Palestine Arabs are likely to have are the British. They regard the Americans as being largely responsible for their troubles; they dislike the Jordan Government and the Mufti and his followers are largely discredited. There is a realization that little tangible assistance or sacrifice can be expected from other Arab States. Ibn Saudi and his spendthrift family are regarded with particular bitterness.

The Palestine Arabs feel that they are being abandoned to their fate and anything we can do to show these people that, even though we gave up the Mandate, we at least, have not forgotten them will have great value in many ways. The position of these people is, in many respects, analogous to that of the Kerens of Burma.

I am convinced that the very warm and generous welcome which I received from so many, including destitute farmers, did not arise entirely from the traditional Arab attitude towards guests or because of any special regard for myself. I think that much of it arose from a persistent hope that the British would return. There is also a realization of the value of the previous administration and the fact that the British officials worked disinterestedly for the good of the people. In not a few frontier villages which I visited the people were obviously embarrassed and very cautious until I explained that I was not an U.N.R.W.A. or Point IV official. When I told them that I was British and had served in Palestine their attitude changed.

/Attitude

Attitude towards the Americans

The Palestine Arabs regard the Americans and their policy towards the establishment and maintenance of Israel as being the most important cause of their present difficulties. They hope that there may be a change after the next presidential election.

Both UNRWA and Point IV are regarded as agents of American economic imperialism and domination, pursuing a policy of consolidating the present status and position of Israel and tacitly accepting the possibility of the expansion of Israel further east at an opportune time.

A frequent criticism is that these Agencies are providing well paid posts for Americans who do not understand the people, the country and the real needs of both. More than one said that "You know how to deal with us and you know our troubles". I think that there is still some real faith in our integrity.

The Arabs do not like the somewhat agressive, "know all" attitude of those amongst the American technicians who are inclined to be very dogmatic. The Arabs feel that although we may not always accept their point of view, we are at least prepared to examine and discuss all aspects of a problem.

Attitude towards the Jordan Government

Generally, the Palestine Arabs dislike and distrust the Jordan Government which they regard as very corrupt and inefficient. Their standard of comparison is the Mandatory government. They believe, correctly, that there is discrimination against them. Nasuli Bey Taher, the Under-Secretary for Agriculture told me bluntly that it is no use doing anything in Arab Palestine until the political situation is settled. In the villages where I suggested that co-operatives might be formed so that money could be borrowed for development projects, the invariable reply was that it would cost too much to go to Amman in order to approach the Jordan Government and the applications would in any case be rejected. If an office were opened in Jerusalem they would like to try establishing cooperatives.

Officials who served under the Mandate and are now working for the Jordan Government compare their present conditions of employment very unfavourably with those they enjoyed under the Mandate. The best of them also feel that pride in their work and integrity are not appreciated now.

Pensioners of the Mandate Government do not like the new arrangement whereby their pensions are paid through the Jordan Government in which they have little confidence.

Attitude towards the other Arab States

The Palestine Arabs think that they are being, and will continue to be, used as pawns in the wider political issues of the Middle East and that their special interests will not be given any particular consideration in the settlement of these issues.

Emigration

A very large proportion of the trained men with experience have left for work in other countries in the Middle East, the oil fields, the United States, Brazil and elsewhere. There is an

/urge

urge to get out which is strongest amonst the Christians, who believe that there can be but little chance for them under the present regime.

The exodus of so many who should be leaders emphasises the feeling of instability and insecurity. Perhaps the most unfortunate recent example is Ahmed Bey Touqan the Arab member on the Mixed Armistice Commission, who is respected and very able.

A number of ex-Palestine officials asked me what chances they have of getting employment outside Palestine and whether I could assist them. In many cases they would have left already were it not for the difficulties caused by their having large families.

There are many educated boys and young men in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Jerusalem and Ramallah of more than average intelligence who have little prospect of obtaining what they regard as suitable employment within Jordan; very many of them are Christians and they all wish to emigrate. These four towns should prove a useful recruiting area for the oil companies for technical and clerical staff.

These educated and half-educated young men will create much the same problems as do the local "intelligentsia" and students in other parts of the Middle East.

The lack of local trained and experienced technicians and administrators will prove a serious handicap to UNRWA when it tries to re-settle the amorphous mass of official refugees in which there are so few who could serve as leaders and teachers. Resettlement would be assisted, if, when there is a prospect of resettlement plans being executed, a deliberate attempt were made to attract back again and offer employment to as many as possible of those who have left Palestine and whose skill and leadership might be put to good purpose.

Communism

Several people stated that Communism is spreading rapidly amongst the Palestinian Arabs. I do not know to what extent this is true and in some cases I may have been told this because of the current Middle East desire to warn the West against the possibility of an expansion of Communism.

But it is certain that there is a vacuum waiting to be filled with some loyalty even if it is loyalty to a new idea and creed. The Palestine Arabs have little allegiance towards the Jordan Government or to the other Arab States and they may regard Communism as their only hope of getting out of their present difficulties and alleviating their present miseries.

A tangible effort to further the development of Arab Palestine might have a considerable effect in arresting the spread of Communism.

Rhodes Agreement

While touring the frontier villages I saw a large part of the present frontier line and it is very evident that the line has been very cleverly drawn to include a very large proportion of the

/productive

productive and especially irrigated land along the frontier in Israel.

Much of the land on the Israel side is not being cultivated or developed and particularly the poorer and marginal lands; most of the first class land is being used and new settlements have been established on some of it. In some areas "no man's land" occupies an unnecessarily large space which is not being used by either side.

The Arabs are cultivating all the land they can, although in a few areas they have insufficient ploughing animals to plough the maximum area possible.

It is surprising that more frequent and more serious clashes along the frontier have not occurred. Nevertheless there is a steady toll of Arabs who cross the frontier - many of them to get food. At El Burj they cross nightly to get water from the well which is now separated from the village.

That there are not more incidents must be ascribed to the efficiency of the Jordan Police on the frontiers and to the ruthlessness of the Israelis and the Arab fear of reprisals. Another reason may be the development of a sense of resignation resulting from semi-starvation and lack of occupation. However, it seems inconceivable that all these people in the frontier villages can continue quietly to go short of food while looking at their lands across an arbitrary line.

Peace

If there were some reasonable and real concessions on the part of Israel, I think that the Palestine Arabs would be only too willing to make peace. They have been living under a severe strain and many are resigned to the establishment of Israel. There is also an all-pervading fear of the trials, destruction and loss which may be their lot in the future if Israel attempts to expand eastwards. The attitude of many official refugees may be quite different.

I believe that very many people in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Beit Jala and Bethlehem would welcome the establishment of Jerusalem and its environs as an international city.

Development and Rehabilitation

The efforts which many of these people are making to help themselves are most impressive. Everywhere there is new terracing and soil to grow more crops is almost literally being made out of stony hillsides; new wells for irrigation have been dug by hand down to depths of 200 feet. In Jerusalem and Ramallah new hotels have been opened and rows of new shops built by a few enterprising people prepared to take risks.

But generally the absence of stability and security is having a deadening effect and those with some money will not risk it in new enterprises where there is a fear of losing all for a second time.

U.N.R.W.A.

The fact that UNRWA has done little or nothing for economic development in Arab Palestine, except some road building, has

/crystallised

crystallised suspicions that American policy is designed to avoid embarrassment to the expansion of Israel and that it is not worth doing anything in Arab Palestine.

The "unofficial" refugees resent the fact that, by and large, they have been excluded from UNRWA assistance. But the cause of most resentment is the competition for work which the "unofficial" refugees have to meet from official refugees who receive rations and are not largely dependent on what they earn. Some of the "unofficial" refugees receive half-rations.

It may have been desirable from the financial point of view but one cannot help questioning the wisdom of the UNRWA policy of not providing some relief work paid for in cash. The circulation of a little more money in Arab Palestine would have created more employment and there would have been useful development and with it more stability and confidence. Such works as terracing in the hills, small irrigation works, the repair of houses blown up in the fighting, the draining of the Marj Lancer seasonal lake and the completion of the Wadi Faria irrigation scheme would have resulted in some useful permanent capital development which would have helped to make Arab Palestine more productive and more self-sufficing.

The results of three or more years of aimless life in the refugee camps and the resulting loss of the will and desire to work will have added a formidable obstacle to integration elsewhere.

Should the opportunity of re-settlement in other Arab countries arise, the enterprise may fail if great care is not taken over the methods used to encourage the people to move and in re-settling them. Much the same problems will arise as arose in Africa in re-settling in a new environment large numbers of peasants, who were reluctant to move from Sleeping Sickness areas and much can be learnt from African experience. It will be found that the creation of confidence and a favourable mental attitude will be of more importance than idealistic material conditions. It will be difficult for outsiders to create this attitude. In this regard the attitude of the women will be important.

21st May, 1952. J.C. Eyre

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/26

FROM

Dev. Division
Beirut

No. ~~SW~~ MET 110/53/2

Dated

Received in Registry— 18.10.52. 26.10.52.

Transmits six additional copies of Mr J.C. Eyre's report on the "Frontier Village of Arab Palestine"

References

—/21

(Print)

(How disposed of)

8 J.I.B.
B/T. (Mr Couldrey)
4 Nov.

(Action completed) [signature] 4/11

(Index) [signature] 4/11

MINUTES

Spares in M.E.S.

I am not sure why we asked for these. J.I.B. wd probably like one but we can await Miss Waterlow's return.

[signature] 27/10

Miss Waterlow (on return)

I agree copy to J.I.B. The report is one which is periodically in demand & I suppose I asked for copies in order to have them in hand. A copy shd also go to Mr Couldrey, B.A. Trade.

[signature] 3/11

42863

Development Division, B.M.E.O.,

c/o British Embassy,

Beirut.

110/53/2
UNCLASSIFIED

18th October, 1952.

E 1827/26

Dear Secretariat,

Please refer to your letter EE 1827/21 of 1st September.

We are enclosing herewith six additional copies of Mr. J.C. Eyre's report on the "Frontier Village of Arab Palestine".

We regret the delay that has occurred in meeting your request but this was occasioned by our having to duplicate additional copies of the report to meet the new demands for it.

Yours ever,

DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

Middle East Secretariat,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

RECEIVED IN C.R.
24 OCT 1952
SENT TO

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/27

FROM

Mr T. Rapp, B.M.E.O. Tayid comm'd.

No. 40/53/4.

Dated

Received in Registry— 30.10.52. 4.11.52.

Development in the West Bank.

Discusses the possible success of the village development scheme. Discusses also loans from the Development Bank.

(Add. to B.M.E.O. Beirut)

References

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Copy) Col. W. R. Edmonds Tsy. 13 Nov.

(Action completed) 17/11

(Index) 24/11

MINUTES

An interesting & generally encouraging letter.

The Development Bank does not seem to be playing the part we hoped it would; perhaps our officials will now be able to stimulate it to adopt a more positive policy.

Copy to Col. Russell-Edmonds, Tr.

C Watkins 6/11

E. Dept. 14/11

JWBM 7/11

42863

British Middle East Office,
Political Division,
GHQ. MELF 17.

RESTRICTED.
110/53/4

30th September, 1952.

I recently spent four days in Jerusalem and was able to gain a few impressions of the West Bank which I should pass on to you.

It is clear that the village development scheme has caught the public imagination. Now that loans are actually being made, albeit on a small scale, a somewhat more optimistic spirit is prevalent in the depressed areas. It is well that Anwar Nusaibi was not able to hold up the grants pending the introduction of his scheme to use cooperatives as agencies. Eyre told me in fact that if there had been any further delay with consequent disillusionment of the villagers he would not have cared to have returned to their neighbourhood.

As it is, the success of the scheme undoubtedly depends on Eyre being there to see it operating effectively. Walmsley told me quite clearly that if Eyre were to go the scheme would collapse. He could not speak highly enough of what Eyre was doing. From what I saw it was clear that Eyre should stay there as long as possible, not only to see that the grants made are fully justified, but also to resist the pressure that would otherwise be brought to bear on Jordan officials to make grants for political and other purposes. So long as Eyre is in the background to give his moral support this should be avoidable.

In the course of my stay I visited Khilkilia with Eyre and Hackett-Pain, and was able to see something of the schemes for which money was required there. I was most impressed with what the villagers have done from their own resources and how greatly they needed help. The village of Khilkilia alone has managed to erect some 25 pumps to irrigate hitherto barren land. The money has been raised by the sale of jewellery, etc., as well as from loans from the Egyptian Loan Company and other commercial sources. Although the Loan Company is apparently charging only 7% interest, I understand that additional charges may bring up the actual rate to 10 or 12 percent. I could not help wondering why it should be a commercial company and not the Development Bank that was financing such undertakings. If the risk is a good risk for the former, why should it not be so for the latter who are in a position to charge a much lower rate of interest. That a low rate of interest is deserved becomes very apparent when one takes into consideration the difficulties that the cultivators are having in marketing their produce profitably. They are also anxious

/to

W. F. Crawford, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E.,
Development Division,
British Middle East Office,
Beirut.

to establish new orange groves, and for that require long-term finance. Here again it would seem that the Development Bank should help, and the advantages of oranges is that there is a more assured market for them than for the present production.

On the subject of the Development Bank, I saw Kerr when I was in Amman, as you suggested that I should do, and he told me that at a recent meeting of the Board the opinion had been expressed that it was not necessary to take advantage of the proposed contribution from the British loan as the Bank had ample funds in hand, having only loaned £100,000 to date. When I questioned him as to the difference between the Bank's policy and that of the commercial banks he told me that it consisted in the length of its loans; the Development Bank was prepared to lend over 6/8 years as against the commercial bankers' short-term loans. The Board had apparently decided against the character loans suggested by UNWRA.

Taking these views in conjunction with the state of affairs that I found on the West Bank, of which Eyre assured me Khilkilia is only one example, it seems to me that either the Development Bank should modify its conservative policy or that the contribution from the British loan for which it considers it will have no use should be used for an extension of the village development and similar schemes. No doubt Eyre will soon be in a position to report on the amount of money that is required to satisfy the most urgent requirements in agricultural development on the West Bank, but I can well imagine that it will be far in excess of our original allocation.

No doubt you will wish to discuss these matters with Furlonge when you visit Jordan, and I am therefore sending a copy of this letter to him as well as to the Middle East Secretariat.

(T. C. RAPP)

35

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1827/28

FROM

Dr Murray, BMEO Beirut to Miss Waterlow

No. 101/53/1

Dated 12.11.52.

Received in Registry— 19.11.52.

Frontier Village Scheme.

Draws attention to the fact that this scheme is largely the work of B.M.E.O.

References

ET 1013/12.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) 28/11

(Index) 10/7/53

MINUTES

We were aware of the part which BMEO have played in the frontier village scheme, & consider it, in fact, one of the best things they have done. It is one of the few opportunities which BMEO have had, not only for planning a scheme but for direct executive responsibility for seeing it carried out.

E Dept (Mr Hunter) 27/11

Mr. Wardrop 27/11

C Waterlow 22/11

22/11

42863

PU E PP-

Development Division,
B.M.E.O.,
c/o British Embassy,
Beirut.

101/53/1
CONFIDENTIAL

12th November, 1952.

E 1827/28

Dear Charlotte,

Reference paragraph 5 of Amman Monthly Situation Report for the month of October 1952 which was forwarded to the Foreign Office under cover of Furlonge's despatch No. 126. You might like to know that this Frontier Village Scheme, the excellent effect of which is referred to, is very much a B.M.E.O. "baby". It was largely worked out by Eyre, the main part of the loan was allocated by Bill Crawford and Eyre is at present in Jordan on one of a series of visits to supervise the execution of the Scheme.

I thought it worthwhile drawing your attention to this point since it is not mentioned in the Situation Report: you may care to draw Eastern Department's attention to the fact that B.M.E.O. has played such a large part in this highly successful practical enterprise.

Yours ever,
John.

(J. Murray)

Miss C. Waterlow, M.B.E.,
Middle East Secretariat,
Foreign Office.

RECEIVED IN O.B.
19 NOV 1952
SENT DEPT.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/29

FROM Mr Chapman-Andrews, Beirut

No. 734

Dated 19/11

Received in Registry— 20/11

Suggests the West bank refugees are being incited to cause trouble

Rpld Amman, Damascus + Cairo

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

There does not appear to be anything for us to do on this.

[illegible] 25/11

E. Dept.

Not anything we can.

[illegible] 27/11

[illegible] 27/11

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.) [illegible] 28/11

(Index.) [illegible] 10/2/53

Next Paper.

31401 F.O.P.

E

EE 1827/29

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM BEIRUT TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

DEPARTMENTAL DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Chapman Andrews
No. 734
19th November, 1952

D. 3.17 p.m. 24th November, 1952
R. 3.39 p.m. 24th November, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 734 of 19th November,

Repeated for information to: Amman
Damascus
Cairo

Following from Knight for Richmond.

From talks over the week-end in Jordan I think it possible that the refugees on the West bank are being incited to cause trouble. By whom it is not clear. Possibly subversive elements, possibly local policians, possibly the Mufti's agents, possibly the refugees themselves are responsible. I suspect that it is by persons who want to embarrass the present Jordan Government and arouse enmity against the United States and the United Kingdom. I have discussed with Furlonge.

[This was a missing telegram sent at our request].

DISTRIBUTED TO:

Eastern Department
Middle East Secretariat

H H H

25 NOV 1952

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E1827/30

FROM

Sir H. Knight
Beirut
to Mr Richmond.

No. AC. 288

Dated 19. 11. 52.

Received in Registry— 27. 11. 53.

West Bank Refugees.

Discusses the instigation of demonstrations by refugees.

References

-/29.

MINUTES

[illegible] 28/11

[illegible] 2/12
Mr. Wardrop 2/12.
Mr Gandy 3/12

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [illegible]

(Index) [illegible] 10/7/53

42863

(AC 288)

CONFIDENTIAL

United Kingdom Delegation
Advisory Commission UNRWA
BEIRUT

c/o British Embassy,

BEIRUT.

19th November, 1952.

BE1827/29 E 1827/30

Dear Richmond,

With reference to my telegram No. 734 about discontent among refugees in Jordan, I expect that Furlonge will have let you know more fully, but I think I should put down one or two points which I gathered from discussion with various people, including some UNRWA officers and Ahmed Bey Tukan.

2. Though the refugees generally are getting more discontented with their lot and more inclined to demonstrate, it seems likely that any demonstrations taking place in the near future will not be entirely spontaneous, but engineered or instigated by outsiders. So far, UNRWA people do not know who is likely to be behind any such disturbances. I personally suspect that Saturday's incident at Fuwwar Camp was political rather than refugee and instigated to embarrass the present Jordan Government rather than UNRWA. But of course at any time a demonstration can be organised because of some real or imaginary grievance of the refugees against UNRWA, and, if such a demonstration leads to trouble, it is then a useful stick to beat not only UNRWA, but the Government, the U.K., the U.S.A. and the U.N.

3. It is expected that the trouble at Fuwwar Camp may lead to demonstrations in all other camps in West Jordan and outside UNRWA offices. The typical demonstration, I gather, is for the refugees to crowd on to the roads and hold up traffic and perhaps to damage vehicles.

4. There are rumours that this month Jordan refugees will refuse to accept their rations as a protest either against the bad quality of the food, or against UNRWA's actions in general, or against the Jordan Government. UNRWA of course realises that at the present time, it is more than ever necessary to see that rations are of good quality and that the refugees' complaints regarding camp management, schools, etc., are investigated.

5. (Perhaps the Jordan Government does not appreciate the advantages of education, for the Police arrested 13 of the refugee school teachers at Fuwwar Camp as ring leaders, though they were later released by the District Officer on a UNRWA official's explanation.)

6. The position, of course, is not improved by the refugees and the West Bank people generally disliking the present Jordan Government for various reasons.

7. However, one may hope that if precautions are taken, nothing more serious will eventuate.

8. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Chanceries at Amman, Damascus and Cairo, and to Rapp at Fayid.

Yours sincerely,

(H.F. Knight)

J.C.B. Richmond, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
26 NOV 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/31

FROM

Mr. M. S. Walker, Amman.
to Mr. Wardrop.

No. 11008/10

Dated 16. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 29. 12. 52.

Economic Refugees.

Mr. Walmsley's report should be used in all discussions with Arab State Governments on this question.

182

References

E 1041/46.
EE 1102/1
EQ 1824/21
34

(Print)

(How disposed of)

Dft.) Mr. Walker, Amman.
Copied Chancery; Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jedda, Tel Aviv, B.M.E.O. Legal.
from Mr. Baker. 5 Jan.

(Action completed) [illegible] 8/1

(Index) [illegible] 10/2/53

MINUTES

Other views are set out in -/32, -/34, & -/35.

Cairo agree with Amman & go further to suggest that the Jordanians might be given a copy & encouraged to publish the report. (-/34).

Tel Aviv see no objection to publication from their own point of view (-/35).

B.M.E.O. still favour publication, suitably edited & with an introduction "on the Jordan Govt's insuperable difficulties" — i.e. making it clear that we don't blame them. But Amman's objections in para 3 even to limited distribution would apply more strongly to publication.

Of Amman's views within I think we must take first account, particularly since the United Nations episode.

It therefore remains to tie this all up.

Pr submit

42863

To submit a draft.

Jm. Hunter
2/1

[illegible]
5/1

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

British Embassy,

AMMAN.

December 16th, 1952.

(11008/10)

CONFIDENTIAL.

EE 1102/1

Dear Wardrop,

We have been thinking over the suggestions in your letter E.1071/46 of December 6th about Walmsley's report on the economic refugees.

2. We agree entirely with the arguments in your second paragraph against giving publicity to this report, the more so in view of the feeling which has been engendered amongst the Arabs by the attitude adopted by the United Kingdom delegation in the Ad Hoc Committee on the subject. To publicise even so factual and objective a report as Walmsley's would merely raise a howl and do more harm than good.

3. Your suggestion that Arab Governments should be given a copy of the report in confidence is tempting, in view of the desirability of dissipating some of the nonsense which they appear to believe on the subject of resettlement possibilities on the West Bank. Since, however, the Jordan Government is the one primarily concerned, we do not think this ought to be done without their prior consent; and, in the present state of feeling about the United Nations affair, we should much prefer not to raise the subject with them at this juncture, though we might do so later.

4. We think, therefore, that the most that should be done is to authorise Her Majesty's Representatives in the Arab States to make all possible use of the report when discussing the question with the Governments to which they are accredited. The timing and scope of such discussions could thus be left to their discretion.

5. We would take this opportunity of pointing out that in some respects the report is now slightly out of date. Since it was written, we have initiated the scheme for making individual loans from the second British loan to West Bank agriculturalists and have also approved the allocation of £75,000 to the City of Jerusalem. A beginning has thus been made in helping the economic refugees, and although it is only on a small scale as yet, we hope that it may be extended, especially if we eventually agree to a further loan. Admittedly what we are doing is only a palliative and not a cure for the evils of the West Bank, but it would be wrong to give the impression that we are doing nothing to help these unfortunate people.

6. I am sending copies of this letter to Her Majesty's Representatives at Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jedda, Tel Aviv and to the British Middle East Office at Fayid.

Yours ever

M T Walker

(M.T.Walker)

J.C.Wardrop,Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN CIS
29 DEC 1952
SENT TO DEPT.

Registry
No. EE1827/31/52

~~Top Secret.~~
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
~~Restricted.~~
~~Open.~~

Draft.
M. T. Walker, Esq.,
~~Chancery~~,
Amman
from
Mr. G. H. Baker

Bag today if possible 5th January 5/11.30

5/1

X 8C

We have now had ~~Cairo~~ comments from Cairo, Tel Aviv, & B.M.E.O., as well as from yourself on Wardrop's letter E 1071/46 of December 6th about Walmsley's report.

2. It seems clear that we can go no further for the present than suggested in the 4th para of your letter; but we should certainly like as much to be done by the other recipients of this correspondence in the Arab capitals. They will no doubt take account of the comments in para 5 of your letter.

3. When the time is propitious, we should like you to approach the Jordan Govt. This will in any case involve giving them a copy of the report; & provided you see no objection we should like you to ~~perhaps you could~~ discuss with them, as well as our original suggestion of circulation to the Arab Govts, ~~that put~~ the suggestion put forward by Cairo for publication by the Jordan Govt themselves; or, of course, they could circulate it themselves.

4. I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

G.H.B. 5/1

Jas. Hunter 2/1

RECEIVED IN DIVISION
- 5 JAN 1953
11.30
DEPARTMENTS

Copy to
Chanceries at
Bagdad,
Beirut,
Cairo,
Damascus,
Jedda,
Tel Aviv
B.M.E.O.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

51—4378

OUT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

EE 1827/31/52)
CONFIDENTIAL.

5th January, 1953.

We have now had comments from Cairo, Tel Aviv, British Middle East Office, as well as from yourself on Wardrop's letter E 1071/46 of the 6th December about Walmsley's report.

2. It seems clear that we can go no further for t the present than suggested in the 4th paragraph of your letter; but we should certainly like as much to be done by the other recipients of this correspondence in the Arab capitals. They will no doubt take account of the comments in paragraph 5 of your letter.

3. When the time is propitious, we should like you to approach the Jordan Government. This will in any case involve giving them a copy of the report; and provided you see no objection we should like you to discuss with them, as well as our original suggestion of circulation to the Arab Governments, the suggestion put forward by Cairo for publication by the Jordan Government themselves; or, of course, they could circulate it themselves.

4. I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

(G. H. Baker)

M.T. Wdker, Esq.,
Amman.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1827/32

FROM

Mr. G. F. Rodgers, B.M.E.O. (Pal. Div.) Fayed.

to Mr. Wardroh.

No. 110/53/3

Dated 18. 12. 52.

Received in Registry— 30. 12. 52.

Economic Refugees.

Favours publication of Mr. Walmsley's report--

182

References

E1041/46

EE1102/1

EQ 1884/21/31 — Dept.

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed) [signature] 8/1

(Index) [signature] 19/7/53

MINUTES

See minutes on -/31 [signature] 2/1

42863

IF.

British Middle East Office,
Political Division,
G.H.Q. M.E.L.F.17.

110/53/3

18th December, 1952.

CONFIDENTIAL

E

E 1824/32

Dear Wardrop,

Your letter E 1071/46 of the 6th December to Walker about Walmsley's report on the economic refugees.

2. Most of your arguments against publication have grown in validity with the considerable passage of time; even now however we doubt if they are overriding in relation to the original reason for which publication was suggested. As the relevant file is with Development Division I cannot quote chapter and verse, but you will recall that the real object of the suggestion made in the spring of this year that this report should be published was, firstly, to goad the international organisations into opening their eyes to the problem of the economic refugees and to induce them to assume some measure of responsibility; secondly to show to those organisations and to members of the United Nations that such an assumption of responsibility was fully justified because it is impossible for a poor country like Jordan to deal adequately with a problem of this magnitude; and thirdly to try and knock out of Arab heads any idea that the Arabs could avoid responsibility for a new departure in relation to Palestine by arguing in favour of resettlement on the West Bank.

3. Admittedly the idea then was to have the report published well in advance of discussion of UNWRA affairs generally at the United Nations. It is now too late for that; nevertheless supplementary allocations in connection with economic refugees might still be possible. Similarly, publication of the report would put the problem in perspective and might induce the United Nations generally and the specialised agencies, national and international, in particular, to consider the allocation of funds through their own channels or through the Development Board in Jordan. Furthermore, the views expressed at the Arab League meetings in the autumn and by Arab delegations at New York show all too clearly that the idea of resettlement on the West Bank still serves the Arab nations as an excuse for not tackling the question of resettlement elsewhere. Finally, it is the existence of a problem too big for Jordan to handle, rather than political criticism on the West Bank, which is the real threat to political stability within Jordan.

4. This is not to say that we do not recognise that publication could be embarrassing to the Jordan Government. Speaking from memory I think Sir Thomas Rapp said in his original telegram that the report might be suitably edited; it seems impossible nevertheless to arouse international interest in the economic refugees without giving full information on their conditions, and there seems no way of giving such information which would not provide malcontents with some ammunition against the Jordan Government. I suspect, however, that the Jordan Government themselves would be prepared to put up with criticism from malcontents for a time if in consequence conditions on the West Bank were materially improved and the ammunition available to the malcontents were thereby progressively removed. Bearing in mind, moreover, the need to interest nations other than the Arabs, I do not think that the alternative course of action you propose would meet the bill; to influence the United Nations and Western nations we should have to give them copies too, and secrecy would scarcely be possible. On balance therefore we still favour publication for the reasons we originally had in mind. Some of the political awkwardness of publication might be removed if a suitable memorandum on the Jordan Government's insuperable difficulties were to introduce any version eventually issued.

5. Meanwhile the condition of the economic refugees gets no better; if anything is to be done about Walmsley's report I suggest it be done with the minimum of delay.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever,

(G.F. RODGERS)

J.C. Wardrop Esq.,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.R.
30 DEC 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
31.12.52

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E. 1824/33

FROM
B. M. E. O. Dev. Div.
Beirut
comm'd
(Mr. Crawford to Sir S. Rapp)

No. 224/53/10

Dated 18. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 29. 12. 52

Development in the West Bank

Sir S. Rapp has visited Amman and attended meeting of Frontier Villages Development Committee. Discusses also Development Bank.

(Copied to Amman)

182

References

—/24

(Print)

(How disposed of)

(Action completed)

(Index)

MINUTES

The last sentence of the third paragraph presumably means that UNRWA is prepared to agree to Development Bank loans to non-refugees as well as refugees. The Development Bank has also suffered from a too rigid insistence on security for loans. I believe that they have now modified their attitude on this point too. We might ask Mr Crawford about this when he comes here.

E. Dept. (Mr Hunt) 1/1

C. Waterlow
1/1/53

1/1

42863

Eyre

Development Division, B.M.E.O.,
c/o British Embassy,
Beirut.

(227/53/10)
CONFIDENTIAL

18th December, 1952.

EE 1824/27

Please refer to your letter 110/53/4 of September 30th.

I apologise for not having answered this letter before. In the meantime, I have been in Amman. When there, I went to a meeting of the Frontier Villages Development Committee in Jerusalem. I thought it was most businesslike. I agree entirely with what you say about Eyre and I am filled with admiration for what he has done and is still doing. I told Edgecombe that I was sure that without him the scheme would collapse. Ibrahim Kaabni, the head of the Development Board office in Jerusalem, is an excellent fellow and his work is admirable but all the taking of decisions falls on Eyre.

With reference to your remarks about the Development Bank, this was all started before I got to Amman. The £150,000 has been withdrawn from the Bank. £75,000 has been allocated, with Her Majesty's Government's approval, to Jerusalem. It will be administered by the Frontier Villages Development Committee. Anwar Naseibi asked for the remaining £75,000 either for Jerusalem or the frontier villages but Her Majesty's Government suggested it should be kept as a Development Board reserve. I think this is wise. Incidentally, I agree that it was a good thing to withdraw the £150,000 from the Bank. I agreed to its allocation in the first place because I thought that, as it would be capital free of refugee considerations, it would help to liberalise Bank policy as regards the proportion to be lent to non-refugees. In view of UNRWA's freer interpretation of the clause in the Bank's statutes regarding refugees, the extra capital is no longer necessary.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Furlonge and to the Middle East Secretariat.

(W.F. Crawford)

Sir Thomas Rapp, K.B.E., C.M.G., M.C.,
Political Division, B.M.E.O.,
Fayid.

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/34

FROM

Chancery. Cairo to N. Dept.

No. 1824/56/52.

Dated 24. 12. 52

Received in Registry— 31. 12. 52

Mr. Walmsley's Report on Economic Refugees.

Agrees publication might do more harm than good.

Suggest copy be given to Jordan Government.

References

-/32

E1041/46

MINUTES

See minutes on -/31 June. 2/1

(Print)

(How disposed of)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Action completed)	(Index)
5/1	10/1/53

42863

/HP.

E

1827/56/52

CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,

CAIRO.

24th December, 1952.

E

Dear Eastern Department,

Wardrop's letter E 1071/46 of the 6th December to Walker about Walmsley's report on the economic refugees.

2. The information available in the report would be valuable, particularly now that the Arab League want as many of the refugees as possible resettled in "Arab Palestine" i.e. including the West Bank. The difficulty is, as Wardrop pointed out, that the publication might do the Jordan Government more harm than good.

3. We see no difficulty about making use of the information in discussion here, but we have doubts about the wisdom of our circulating the report to all Arab Governments, even confidentially, as it is bound to get out. The possibility has occurred to us that a copy might be given to the Jordan Government only and they might be encouraged to publish it themselves with whatever emendments or explanations they might consider advisable. This might go some way in meeting the objections from their point of view.

4. We are copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours ever,

CHANCERY.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.R.
31 DEC 1952
SENT TO DEPT.
1.1.52

1952

E

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

PALESTINE

E E 1824/35.

FROM

Mr. Chadwick
Tel Aviv.

No. 11408/9/52

Dated 22. 12. 52

Received in Registry—
31. 12. 52

Mr. Walmsley Report on Economic Refugees.

Has no objection to publication

References

—/35
E. 1071/46.

MINUTES

See minutes on —/31 June. 2/1

(Print)

(How disposed of)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Action completed)	(Index)
2/1/53	5/1/53

42863

Mr Hunter
E

(11408/9/52)
CONFIDENTIAL

BRITISH EMBASSY,
TEL AVIV.

22nd December, 1952.

EF 1824/35

Dear Wardrop,

In your letter to Walker (E.1071/46) of 6th December you asked for our views on whether it would be wise to publish Walmsley's report on the so-called "economic" refugees on the west bank of the Jordan.

From the point of view of this post there is no objection.

Yours ever
John Chadwick
(J.E.Chadwick)

J.C. Wardrop, Esq.,
Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED IN C.B.
31 DEC 1952
SENT TO [illegible]
1. 1. 52

Problem of 'economic' refugees, those in need of food and sustenance, on the West bank of the Jordan. Code EE file 1827 (papers 17 to end). 1952. MS Refugee Records from the General Correspondence Files of the Political Departments of the Foreign Office, Record Group 371, 1947-1970 FO 371/98517. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom).